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Mock the Vote



Trump Jabs Critics: I'll Accept Election Results - If I Win

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures as he arrives to speak at a campaign rally at the Delaware County Fair, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, in Delaware, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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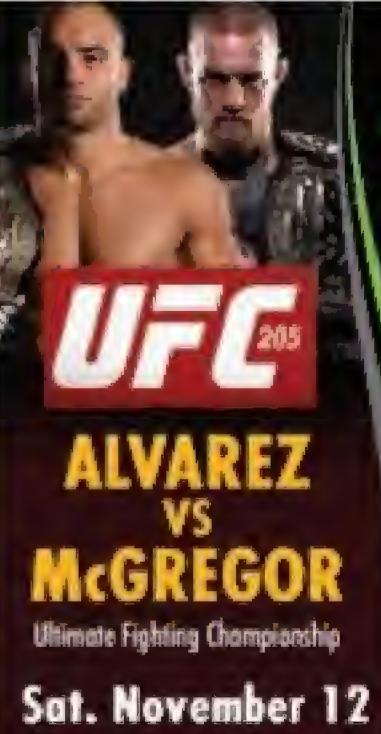
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Mosul:**Iraqi Special Forces join battle as US soldier dies**

Q. ZAHRA

S. GEORGE

Associated Press

BARTELLA, Iraq (AP) — In a significant escalation of the battle for Mosul, elite Iraqi special forces joined the fight Thursday, unleashing a pre-dawn assault on an Islamic State-held town east of the besieged city, and the U.S. military announced

Islamic State group, which has occupied Mosul for more than two years, has prepared extensive defenses in and around the city. As they charged toward the town of Bartella, nine miles (15 kilometers) from Mosul's outskirts, the Iraqi special forces faced another favored weapon in the IS arsenal: armored

advancing troops, eight of which were destroyed before reaching their targets, while the ninth struck an armored Humvee. Lt. Col. Muntadhar al-Shimmari told The Associated Press. He did not give a casualty figure, but another officer said five Iraqi soldiers were wounded. The officer spoke on condition of ano-



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces listen to an address by their commander after a training exercise to prepare for the operation to re-take Mosul from Islamic State militants, in Baghdad, Iraq. Iraq's special forces, which barreled into a town east of Mosul on Thursday despite a wave of suicide attacks, are the country's most professional and least sectarian fighting force.

(AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

the first American combat death since the operation began.

U.S. officials said the American service member died Thursday from wounds sustained in a roadside bomb explosion north of Mosul. More than 100 U.S. special operations forces are embedded with Iraqi units in the offensive, and hundreds more are playing a support role in staging bases. The American had been operating as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist in support of the Iraqi Kurdish force known as the peshmerga, the U.S. officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss details.

Roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices pose a particular danger to advancing Iraqi forces and the U.S. advisers who are with them. The

trucks packed with explosives and driven by suicide bombers. The militants' signature battlefield tactic, the weapons offered a glimpse at what Iraqi forces can expect as they close in on the extremists' biggest urban bastion.

The pre-dawn assault on Bartella was part of a multi-pronged operation on eastern approaches to Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. Attack helicopters strafed militant positions as they advanced amid a hail of gunfire. The U.S.-trained special forces, officially known as the Counter Terrorism Service, are widely seen as Iraq's most professional and least sectarian fighters, and have served as the shock troops in previous campaigns against IS. They are expected to lead the charge into Mosul.

IS militants unleashed at least nine suicide car and truck bombs against the nymity because he was not authorized to release information. "After we break them in Bartella, everywhere else, they will crumble," said Maj. Gen. Fadil Barwari. He said IS had few defenses in the town, which was almost completely empty of civilians. "They just left some snipers and suicide car bombs," he said. Meanwhile, Iraqi Kurdish forces announced a simultaneous attack, with peshmerga fighters deployed on mountains northeast of Mosul descending from their positions and charging toward the front line. Under cover of mortar and gunfire, the Kurdish troops used bulldozers and other heavy equipment to fill trenches dug by the militants as part of their defense of the IS-held village of Barima, then advanced with their armored vehicles toward the extremists' positions. □

Iraqi-Turkish split points to a distrust among Mosul forces

JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Just days into the operation to retake the Islamic State-held city of Mosul, a fault-line has widened between Iraq and Turkey, and the distrust among the various forces arrayed against the extremists has again bubbled to the surface.

The rhetoric is growing increasingly heated on both sides. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have traded school-yard insults, and earlier this week thousands of followers of a firebrand Shiite cleric rallied outside the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, calling for an end to the Turkish "occupation."

They were referring to the presence of some 500 Turkish troops at a base north of Mosul who have been training Sunni and Kurdish fighters since last December. Baghdad says the troops are there without permission and has called on them to withdraw. Ankara has refused, and insists it will play a role in liberating the city. Turkey has close ties to the Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani, which perhaps explains how the troops came to be there in the first place. Kurdish Foreign Minister Falah Mustafa declined to comment Wednesday when asked if the Kurds had invited the troops, saying only that they favor a solution that is "satisfactory" to both countries.

The Turkish troops are training Kurdish forces loyal to Barzani as well as Sunni fighters loyal to Atheel al-Nujaifi, the former governor of Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital. Both men have pursued greater autonomy from the Shiite-dominated government, incurring the wrath of state-sanctioned Shiite militias backed by Iran. An Iraqi court issued an arrest warrant against al-Nujaifi this week, accusing him of facilitating the entry of unauthorized Turkish forces.

Now all the various groups are gathered around Mosul, hoping to take part in the biggest military offensive Iraq has launched since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

"It's not just an issue of sovereignty," said Baghdad-based analyst Hadi Jalil Maraei. "This intervention has a negative effect on the whole region because there are so many ethnic groups and sects."

Turkey has historic ties to Mosul that go back centuries, and sees itself as its protector because of the city's Sunni majority and large ethnic Turkmen community, said Fadi Hakura, a Turkey analyst at Chatham House. "Turkey fears that the Shiite-dominated central government in Baghdad will alter the demographic balance after the ejection of the Islamic State from the city," he said.

Turkey's allies point to the Iraqi government's strong ties to Ankara's regional rival, Iran, which has no known military forces in the country but sponsors several powerful militias.

"It is true that Turkey is stepping into a foreign country, but it is also true that some of the Iraqi actors have strong links to regional powers," said Maria Fantappie, an Iraq researcher at the International Crisis Group. "So how to draw the line between what is Iraqi and non-Iraqi? It's kind of difficult."

Turkey has also deepened its involvement in the war in neighboring Syria, where Turkish forces and allied Syrian opposition fighters are battling both IS extremists and U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces.

Turkish warplanes struck Kurdish forces in northern Syria late Wednesday, killing up to 200 fighters, according to state-run media. Turkey views the Syrian Kurdish forces as an extension of the Kurdish insurgency in its southeast. □

Obama: Health care law worked, but improvements needed

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — President Barack Obama on Thursday defended his namesake health care program, long a target of Republicans and recently criticized by some Democrats, saying millions of Americans "now know the financial security of health insurance" because of the Affordable Care Act.

"It's worked," he said, even while allowing that the program isn't perfect. "No law is."

Less than two weeks before the Nov. 1 start of the enrollment period for Affordable Care Act health plans, Obama flew to a south Florida college to kick off a push by the administration to encourage more people to sign up, with a particular emphasis on young adults.

Obama is trying to burnish his legacy as the president who, after decades of failed attempts by Washington, finally brought health care to millions. But what he attempted Thursday was a difficult sales job, as the 2010 law faces new and troubling challenges. Premiums are rising by double digits in many parts of the country and some major insurers have quit the program, leaving consumers with fewer choices next year and contributing to higher prices that are plaguing the program.

The troubles have bolstered the arguments of Republicans and added some top Democratic allies to the crowd of critics.

Former President Bill Clinton, while campaigning in support of his wife, Hillary's, presidential bid, called the Affordable Care Act "the craziest thing in the world." Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton said it is "no longer affordable."

In his remarks, Obama chalked up GOP criticism of the law to "nothing more than politics" and envy that "a Democratic president named Barack Obama passed the law. That's just the truth."

He called on both parties to set aside the "political rhetoric" and "be hon-

est about what's working, what needs fixing and how we fix it." He urged the new president and the next Congress to "take what we've learned over the past six years ... and make the ACA better."

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., wasn't buying the president's pitch.

"At this point, one thing is clear. This law can't be fixed," Ryan said, calling for the law to be replaced with "patient-centered reforms" that would give people more choice and control over their health care needs.

Congressional Republicans have failed to repeal the law, despite numerous attempts. Obama said doing so would just make things worse. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said this week that she expects 13.8 million people will sign up for 2017 coverage, a modest increase over the 12.7 million consumers who picked health insurance plans during open enrollment for this year. Obama presented his own prescription to make the law better, including getting Florida and more than a dozen states that haven't yet done so to accept federal funding to expand Medicaid and bring health insurance to millions more people.

He also called for providing tax credits to help middle-class Americans and young adults afford coverage, creating a "public plan fallback" to provide more options, particularly for people in rural and other hard to reach areas, and encouraging state innovation.

Obama compared problems in the law to a bug in new technology. He said, for example, that a company will fix a problem with a smartphone.

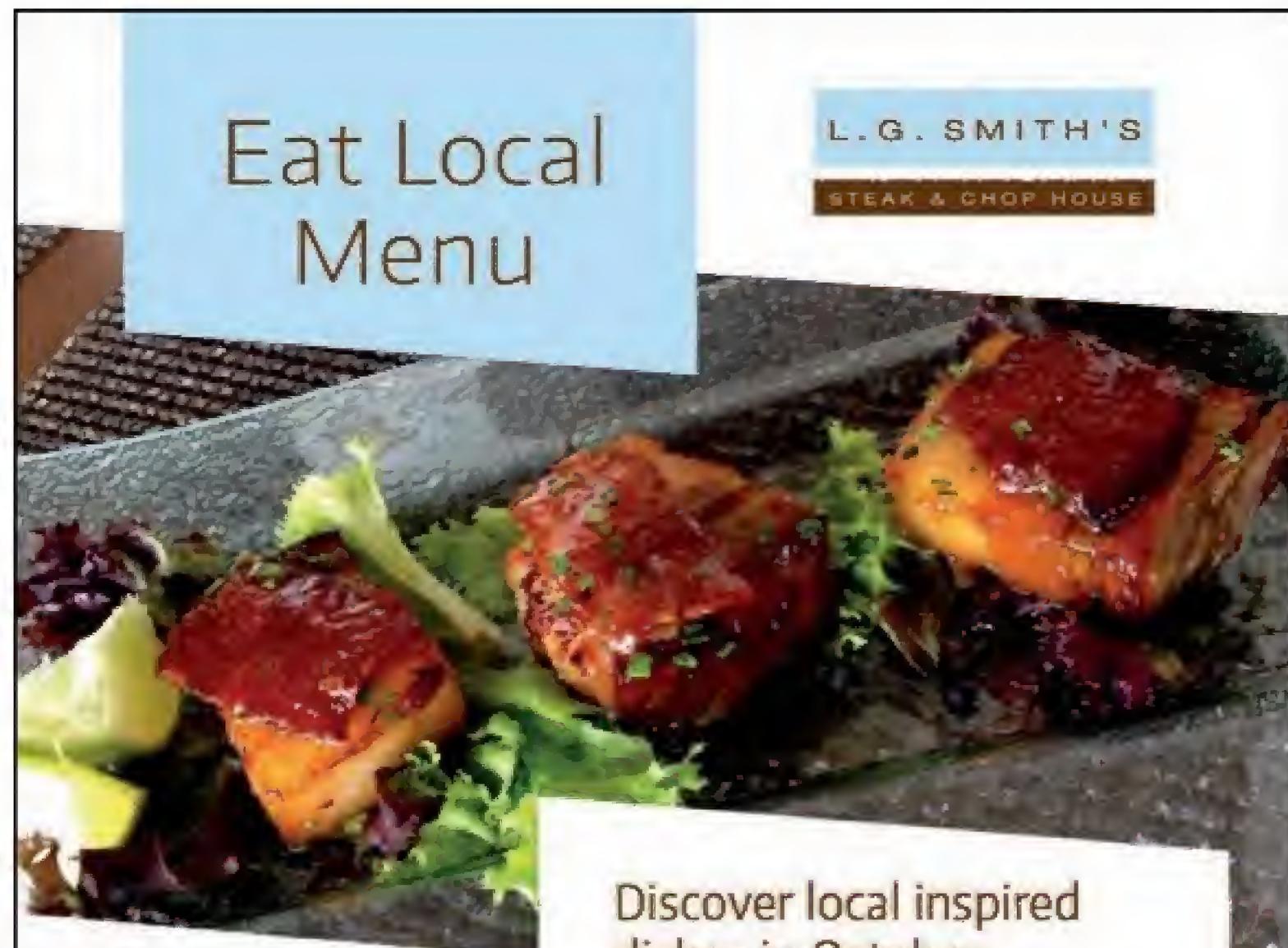
"They upgrade it, unless it catches fire and then they just pull it off the market," Obama joked, in a reference to the recalled Samsung Galaxy Note 7 smartphone. "But you don't go back to using a rotary phone. You don't say, we're repealing smartphones." □



President Barack Obama speaks about the Affordable Care Act, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, at Miami Dade College in Miami. The president is promoting his health overhaul by saying that never in U.S. history has the uninsured rate been lower than it is today.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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Trump mocks critics: I'll accept election results - if I win

JULIE PACE

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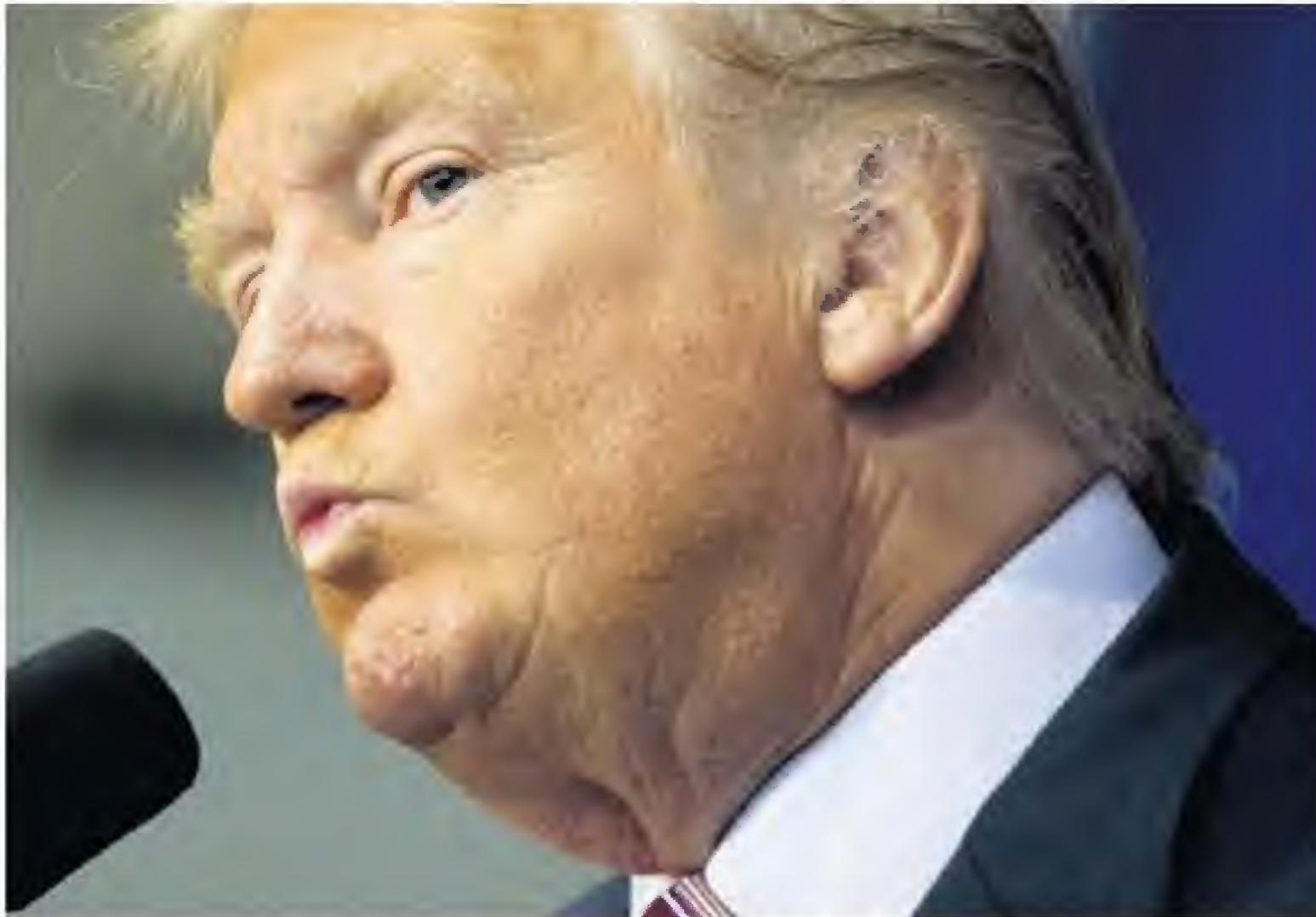
JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

DELAWARE, Ohio (AP) —

Mocking his critics, Donald Trump pledged Thursday to fully accept the outcome of next month's presidential election — if he wins. The Republican said he reserved the right to contest questionable results, deepening his unsubstantiated assertions that the race against Hillary Clinton could be rigged against him.

Trump's comments came a day after his stunning refusal in the final presidential debate to say whether he would concede to Clinton if he loses. His resistance, threatening to undermine the essence of American



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Delaware County Fair, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, in Delaware, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

democracy, was roundly rejected by fellow Republicans.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, the 2008 GOP nominee, called the peaceful transfer of power "the pride of our country."

"I didn't like the outcome of the 2008 election. But I had a duty to concede, and I did so without reluctance," McCain said in a lengthy statement. "A concession isn't just an exercise in graciousness. It is an act of respect for the will of the American people, a respect that is every American leader's first responsibility."

With the presidential race slipping away from him, Trump has repeatedly raised the specter of a rigged election, despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud heading toward Election Day or in previous presidential contests. His top advisers and running mate Mike Pence have tried to soften his comments, only to watch helplessly as he plunges ahead.

Asked in Wednesday's debate if he would accept the election results and concede to Clinton if he loses, Trump said: "I will tell you at the time. I will keep you in suspense."

Clinton slammed Trump's comments as "horrifying," and fellow Democrats

piled on Thursday.

"That undermines our democracy," President Barack Obama said while campaigning for Clinton in Florida. "Our democracy depends on people knowing their vote matters." His wife, first lady Michelle Obama, told 7,000 Clinton supporters in Republican-voting Arizona Thursday that Trump was threatening to "ignore our voices and reject the outcome of this election." She said that's the same as "threatening the very idea of America itself."

Trump's comments overshadowed his attempts to diminish Clinton's credibility during the debate. He entered the contest desperate to reshape the race and attract new voters who are deeply skeptical of his brash temperament and fitness for office, but it appeared unlikely he accomplished those goals. "I would like to promise and pledge to all of my voters and supporters and to all of the people of the United States that I will totally accept the results of this great and historic presidential election," he said. After letting that vow hang in the air for a few seconds, he added, "If I win."

The Republican nominee said he would accept "a clear election result" but reserved his right to "contest or file a legal challenge" if he loses.

He brushed off the likelihood of that happening with a confident prediction that "we're not going to lose."

Yet numerous Republican leaders concede Trump is heading for defeat barring a significant shift in the campaign's closing days. The GOP's top concern now is salvaging its majority in the Senate, followed closely by worries over the Republicans' once comfortable grip on the House.

"The landscape has gotten a lot tougher for Republicans in the House," said Liesl Hickey, a Republican strategist involved some of those races. In Pennsylvania, Sen. Pat Toomey said Trump's comments were "irresponsible." □

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Milwaukee cop who fatally shot man charged with sex assault

TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Milwaukee police officer who fatally shot a black man in August, sparking several nights of unrest, has been charged with sexually assaulting a man the night after the shooting, after they watched coverage of the riots on television at a bar, authorities said Thursday.

Officer Dominique Heaggan-Brown, 24, was arrested Wednesday. The alleged victim, unidentified in a criminal complaint, told police on Aug. 15 that Heaggan-Brown had sexually assaulted him while off duty. Heaggan-Brown fatally shot 23-year-old Sylville Smith on Aug. 13. Police said he was holding a gun when he was shot after a brief chase.

Police said Heaggan-Brown is suspended and in custody and they have launched an internal investigation. Police Chief Ed Flynn told reporters during a news conference that nothing in Heaggan-Brown's pre-hiring background check suggested he would be likely to engage in wrongdoing.

"It's altogether awful," Fly-

nn said. "This individual has revealed his character in a way that did not come to light in the pre-hiring investigation."

Heaggan-Brown's attorney, Michael Steinle, didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment. Heaggan-Brown's bail was set at \$100,000. He's set to appear at a preliminary hearing on Oct. 27. According to the criminal complaint:

Heaggan-Brown took the victim to a bar late on the night of Aug. 14 where they drank heavily and watched TV as coverage of the protests aired. The victim told investigators that Heaggan-Brown bragged that he was the boss and that there were "no limitations" on how he lived and that he could do whatever he wanted "without repercussions."

The victim told police the day after the alleged assault that he had trouble remembering everything that happened after they left the bar but that he felt drugged. He said he woke up to Heaggan-Brown sexually assaulting him.

The complaint said Heaggan-Brown took the man to St. Joseph's Hospital



This photo shows Milwaukee police officer Dominique Heaggan-Brown. Heaggan-Brown, who sparked several nights of protest after fatally shooting a black man in August, was arrested Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016, and charged with five counts of sexual misconduct in a separate case stemming from an alleged attack two days after the shooting.

(Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office via AP)

early on Aug. 15. The officer told a security guard who helped him wheel the man inside that the man had had too much to drink and was "completely out, zonked out of his gourd." But when nurses began providing aid, the man "flipped out," grabbed a

security guard's arm and exclaimed: "He raped me, he raped me," indicating Heaggan-Brown.

Later that morning, Heaggan-Brown texted his mentor, Sgt. Joseph Hall, saying he had messed up "big time."

"Need your help big time.

... But need to handle this the most secret and right way possible," the text read in part. The sergeant told investigators that Heaggan-Brown claimed the sex was consensual.

Flynn said Thursday that Hall reported his contact with Heaggan-Brown to command staff but the sergeant is under internal investigation as well. Hall remains on duty.

"We're going to get to the bottom of what that exchange was about," Flynn said.

Using photographs and other data from the officer's cellphone, the complaint said, investigators determined that Heaggan-Brown offered two other people money for sex several times — in December 2015 and in July and August of this year — and that he sexually assaulted another unconscious person in July, and photographed that victim naked without that person's consent. The charges include two felony counts of second-degree sexual assault, two misdemeanor prostitution counts and one felony count of capturing an intimate representation of a person without consent. □

Registered sex offender accused of killing California deputy

ALTURAS, Calif. (AP) — A sheriff's deputy shot dead in rural northern California was killed by a man listed in state records as a registered sex offender shortly after the deputy arrived at a home to investigate a domestic disturbance, authorities said Thursday.

Deputy Jack Hopkins, 31, died instantly Wednesday morning and the suspect, Jack Lee Breiner, was arrested after a chase and shootout with another offi-

cer that left both wounded, the Modoc County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. Hopkins was the fourth California law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty over the last two weeks.

Breiner is listed in California's sex offender registry as having committed lewd or lascivious acts with a child ages 14 or 15 and annoying or molesting a child under age 18. The sheriff's office did not return calls seeking additional com-

ment about Breiner. Modoc County District Attorney Jordan Funk told the Redding Record Searchlight newspaper that Breiner was still hospitalized Thursday and it was too early to say what charges he would face but that the intentional killing of an on-duty police officer is punishable by the death penalty. The killing of Hopkins happened at a property about eight miles south of the town of Alturas, population

3,000, which bills itself as a place "where the west still lives" near California's border with Oregon.

The sheriff's office statement did not describe where on the property Hopkins was shot but said the deputy had "entered the property to investigate the call when he confronted the main suspect" and was killed. It characterized the call Hopkins was responding to as a domestic disturbance but did not provide

further details. "The entire law enforcement community of our region and state grieves the irrevocable loss of deputy Hopkins," the sheriff's office said.

After Hopkins was killed, Breiner fled in a vehicle and was wounded in a shoot-out with Modoc County Sheriff Mike Poindexter, who was also responding to the disturbance call, the statement said. Poindexter suffered an unspecified minor wound. □

Woman charged in unsolved 1989 killing in Kansas

MARIA SUDEKUM

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)

— A 48-year-old Missouri woman has been charged in the death of a woman whose body was found nearly 30 years ago in Kansas City, Kansas, authorities announced Thursday.

Carolyn J. Heckert was charged Wednesday with first-degree murder in the

December 29, 1989, death of Sarah DeLeon, Wyandotte County District Attorney Jerome Gorman said in a release. DeLeon, 18, was found stabbed to death along railroad tracks, police said. She had also suffered a head wound, police said.

Heckert was arrested Wednesday in Smithville, Missouri, which is about 20

miles north of Kansas City, Kansas. She was being held Thursday in the Clay County jail on \$1 million bond, awaiting extradition to Kansas.

A lawyer for Heckert didn't immediately return calls seeking comment Thursday.

Police said new DNA collection and testing technology prompted police to

review the DeLeon case in July 2014.

DeLeon's mother Gail Elieson said Thursday she was "quite pleased" with the announcement of charges in the case.

"It just took a long time to get to this point," she said in a telephone interview from her Colorado home.

"It will be 27 years in December" since her daughter was slain, she said.

Her daughter was a "wonderful young woman," who was studying at a community college, Elieson said. She said she considered the attack on her daughter as "something very personal, with a lot of rage."

"She had no enemies. Everybody loved her," Elieson said. "She did not live a high-risk lifestyle."

Half a year after 8 relatives killed, no answers or arrests



A private property sign guards the boarded up garage on property on Union Hill Road near the trailer where the bodies of Dana Rhoden and her children, Chris Rhoden Jr., and Hanna Rhoden, were found on April 22, three of eight family members found shot to death that day in a still-unsolved crime, in Piketon, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Andrew Welsh-Huggins)

ANDREW HUGGINS

Associated Press

PIKETON, Ohio (AP) — Six months after someone shot eight members of an extended family to death in their homes, surviving relatives are still waiting — for an explanation, for an arrest, for a hint of closure.

"I just want to know why?" said Tajlanna Mead, of Waverly, whose 44-year-old fa-

ther, Kenneth Rhoden, was among the victims.

When the slayings were discovered the morning of April 22, rural Pike County in the Appalachian foothills of southern Ohio was coming to life with the colors of greening hardwoods and the white petals of dogwood trees. Half a year later, colors are changing again as leaves turn to

burnt yellow and red across the thickly wooded hills.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader told WCPO-TV this week that he now believes the killers were local.

Union Hill Road, where seven of the victims were found on three properties, is open again to traffic. "Private Property: No Trespassing" signs are posted at the end of the homes' drive-

ways. Porches sit stranded in yards, their steps leading nowhere: In May, investigators moved the mobile homes where the killings occurred to a secure location as the investigation continued.

Leonard Manley, who lost his daughter, Dana Rhoden, and three grandchildren, lives on Union Hill Road near all the crime scenes. He spends his days tinkering after retiring two years ago from cutting timber. He doesn't know who committed the crime and questions whether it will be solved in his lifetime.

Manley, 65, has long thought the killers knew the properties intimately, in part because Christopher Rhoden Sr. had a security system, as well as a pit bull and bulldog, that would have been hard for a stranger to get past.

"You wake up at night, and you wonder. I get up of a night, 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. Can't go back to sleep, thinking about things," Manley said.

The victims were Kenneth Rhoden, 44; Christopher Rhoden Sr., 40; his ex-wife, 37-year-old Dana Rhoden; their three children, 20-year-old Clarence

"Frankie" Rhoden, 16-year-old Christopher Rhoden Jr. and 19-year-old Hanna Rhoden; a cousin, 38-year-old Gary Rhoden; and Frankie Rhoden's fiancee, 20-year-old Hannah Gilley, whose 6-month-old son with Frankie Rhoden was unharmed.

Two other children, Hanna Rhoden's 4-day-old daughter and Frankie Rhoden's 3-year-old son, also were unharmed. Adding to the family's pain is a legal fight involving three family members seeking custody of the two youngest children. A Pike County judge is shielding public access to those court hearings and records.

Most of the victims were shot multiple times in the head and, in the case of Christopher Rhoden Sr., in his upper body and torso, as well. Some bodies showed signs of bruising, as if they'd been beaten. Kenneth Rhoden's body was found at his trailer a few miles away from the properties on Union Hill Road.

Kendra Rhoden, Tajlanna's sister, says her father, Kenneth Rhoden, was a wise man who taught her lessons about dealing with life, heartbreak and all.

Ohio mom's confession details how she smothered 3 sons

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio (AP)

— An Ohio woman accused of suffocating her three young sons over a 13-month period says in a recorded police interview that she smothered each boy with a blanket because she didn't want to see them suffering.

Brittany Pilkington also said

she was depressed and worried her sons would eventually become abusive toward women, The Columbus Dispatch reported on Wednesday.

"I wish I would have done it to myself instead," Pilkington can be heard saying to police on the recording.

A Logan County judge has

been reviewing Pilkington's statements while considering a request to exclude her confession in the potential death penalty case. Her lawyers argue it was obtained unconstitutionally.

Defense attorney Marc Triplett said police were aware of Pilkington's lack

of mental acuity and she didn't understand when she signed a form waiving her Miranda rights.

Prosecutors said the 24-year-old Bellefontaine woman knowingly agreed to be interviewed without a lawyer and she was advised of her rights by officers at the police station

and then again at the sheriff's office.

Pilkington's tested IQ is 94, according to court records. Logan County children services' records state that Pilkington functioned on the level of an 11- or 12-year-old at age 18. She's reportedly a high school graduate.

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US Financial Front:

Survey says more Americans now have access to bank accounts



A customer uses an ATM at a branch of Chase Bank, in New York. Fewer Americans are without access to a checking or savings account, according to a survey released Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, by federal regulators, a sign that the improving economy is helping lift the nation's poorest households.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More Americans have access to a checking or savings account, according to a survey released Thursday by federal regulators, a sign that the improving economy is helping lift the nation's poorest households. Having a checking or savings account is considered a cornerstone of financial stability in the U.S. Without one, households must rely on check-cashing services, prepaid debit cards and other costly ways to pay bills and make routine transactions.

The portion of Americans who do not have a bank account, known in industry jargon as the "unbanked," declined to 7 percent in 2015 from 7.7 percent in 2013, according to the survey from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The improvements came mostly from households making less than \$15,000 a year and among minority populations, particularly black and Hispanic households. Another way of looking at it: For every 10 households that were unbanked in 2013, one of those house-

holds is now banked.

"The improving economy no doubt impacted these numbers in a positive way," FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said in an interview. The Census Department reported last month that median household income rose 5.2 percent from 2014 to 2015, the first annual increase in that metric since before the Great Recession. That same report showed the proportion of Americans in poverty also fell last year, from 14.8 percent to 13.5 percent, the biggest annual decline in nearly 50 years. Not only did more Americans making less than \$15,000 open bank accounts between 2013 and 2015, but the number of Americans making less than \$15,000 also declined. "The poor have more money in their pockets, and more are able to afford bank accounts," said Aaron Klein, a fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution.

There are several reasons why people choose not to have a traditional bank account. Some do not trust banks or want to avoid their fees, or they have privacy concerns, according

to the FDIC report. There is also a perception among the unbanked that bank accounts are not for the poor. More than half of unbanked households said they believe banks are "not at all interested" in serving households like theirs, the report said. But the No. 1 reason why Americans say they do not have a checking or savings account is that they believe they do

not have enough money to get an account. The FDIC said roughly 57 percent of all unbanked households cited lack of money as a reason not to have an account, and roughly 38 percent of those same people said that was the main reason. The FDIC conducts a survey of the unbanked and underbanked every two years, gathering the data on odd years and re-

leasing the results roughly a year later. The figures released Thursday were gathered in June 2015, so the results do not reflect improvements in the economy since then.

The FDIC report also showed the growing proliferation of prepaid debit cards as an alternative to bank accounts, particularly among the poor, young and minorities. □



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France warns UK premier of tough time ahead in Brexit talks

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — France warned Britain at the start of a European Union summit on Thursday that it would face a tough, unyielding opponent if it sought too many concessions during its negotiations to leave the 28-nation EU. British Prime Minister Theresa May, who was attending her first EU summit as leader, was expected to brief her European counterparts on the way ahead for Britain's exit from the trade bloc. Many uncertainties about the divorce remain because Britain has yet to trigger the two-year negotiations for "Brexit" — and is unlikely to do so until the end of March.

"It's in the interests of the U.K. and the EU that we continue to work closely together, including at this summit," May said.

French President Francois Hollande immediately insisted that the EU would not surrender the bloc's core values just to keep Britain close as a future ally. "I have said so very firmly: Mrs. Theresa May wants a hard Brexit? The negotiations will be hard," Holland said.

Britain's June 23 breakup



French President Francois Hollande speaks to media reporters as he arrives for the EU summit in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016. France warned Britain at the start of the summit on Thursday that it would face a tough, unyielding opponent if it sought too many concessions during its negotiations to leave the 28-nation EU.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

referendum has forced the 27 other nations to plot their future without a major but often recalcitrant member state. European leaders have grumbled that Britain's tardiness in starting the negotiations slow down their own planning for the next few years. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the other leaders would underscore the urgency and would

"make clear again: We are waiting for the notification from Britain." The 27 leaders already had their first summit without Britain in Bratislava last month. May told the leaders Thursday they had to realize that even if they all agreed on issues they should not expect Britain to automatically jump on board at official summits of 28. Once May activates the

exit clause — Article 50 in the EU's governing Lisbon Treaty — negotiations on the terms of Britain's departure would run for two years. The time frame could be extended, but only if the 27 remaining member states agree unanimously. The Brexit referendum to leave the EU was a milestone in the history of the bloc and the disentanglement is expected to be

long, difficult and confrontational.

Still, EU President Donald Tusk, who chairs the summit, assured the British leader she would not get too hostile a reception. Tusk said that some compared it to "entering the lion's den. It's not true. It's more like a nest of doves. She'll be absolutely safe with us. May said Britain would continue to be a responsible member right up to the day it leaves the EU. "I'm here with a very clear message. The U.K. is leaving the EU but we will continue to play a full role until we leave."

Like Hollande, Tusk vowed last week not to compromise on the bloc's principles in negotiating Britain's departure and warned that London is heading for a hard exit.

He insisted that Britain can't hope to both stay in Europe's single market of seamless business and restrict the movement of EU migrants, saying there would be no compromises. May has appeared to signal that her government would prioritize controls on immigration over access to the European single market, an approach informally called a "hard Brexit." □

Ukraine remains optimistic EU trade will be pushed through

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands (AP) — Ukraine's president said Thursday he remains confident that a free-trade pact drawing his country closer to the European Union will be implemented, despite its rejection by Dutch voters in a referendum earlier this year.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte sounded less convinced.

"I don't think we will be able to have conclusions on this tonight," Rutte told reporters on his way into a European Union summit in Brussels where he was to brief the 27 other EU leaders on his government's possible next steps.

The Netherlands is the only EU country yet to complete ratification of the association agreement with Ukraine. Former Ukraine leader Viktor Yanukovych's

refusal to sign the pact in 2013, choosing closer ties with Russia instead, brought thousands of people into the streets of Kiev and eventually cost him his job. Rutte has a Nov. 1 deadline to inform the Dutch Parliament what he plans to do about the referendum. While the April referendum was non-binding, the government is extremely unlikely to ignore voters' wishes. Dutch media have reported

that Rutte may seek amendments that address key Dutch concerns, such as fears the pact will open the door to EU membership for Kiev, that it will mean sending more funds to Ukraine and that it could lead to military ties. Poroshenko insisted the treaty is about using trade as a vehicle to embed European values in his country, saying it already has led to significant reforms in

fighting corruption, improving governance and protecting human rights.

"I am confident that Europe can be united," Poroshenko said after a meeting in the southern Dutch city of Maastricht. "I'm confident that (the) association agreement with the European Union and Ukraine would be ratified, implemented in favor of Europe, in favor of the Netherlands and in favor of Ukraine." □

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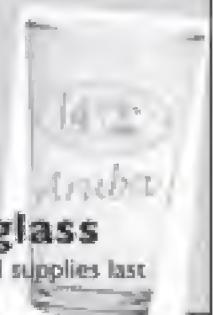
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Turkey ramps up fight against Kurdish fighters in Syria

SARAH EL DEEB

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey escalated its offensive Thursday against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria, pounding them with airstrikes and artillery, and complicating the battle against the Islamic State group by Ankara and Washington, both NATO allies.

In the fight for Aleppo, meanwhile, the Syrian military used a lull in violence to urge residents and rebels to evacuate the besieged opposition-held part of the city.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said as many as 200 members of the Kurdish-led forces were killed in Syria's Aleppo province by the Turkish bombing and shelling.

A senior commander with the main Syria Kurdish militia confirmed the Turkish attack on his forces north of Aleppo but disputed the casualty toll, saying that no more than 10 fighters were killed.

Like in Iraq, where Kurdish fighters are at the forefront of the offensive to retake the city of Mosul from the Islamic State group, Kurdish forces in Syria also have been battling IS militants and made significant territorial gains in Aleppo province.

That has dismayed Turkey, which is dealing with a homegrown Kurdish insurgency and trying to prevent an expansion of Kurdish influence in Syria.

"We will not back down," senior Kurdish commander Mahmoud Barkhadan of the People's Protection Units told The Associated Press by telephone from the region.

"We are fighting Daesh. Why are they striking at

us?" he asked, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Barkhadan accused Turkey of aiding IS militants by turning the fight into a Turkish-Kurdish battle.

Turkish artillery also hit near Afrin, a Kurdish enclave in northwestern Syria, he said, adding that his forces have not retreated but that Turkey's actions allowed IS fighters to wage a counteroffensive.

More than 10 fighters were killed and 20 wounded in over 30 aerial attacks that began Wednesday night, he said.

Anadolu, quoting military officials, reported the raids were carried out late Wednesday night on 18 targets in the Maarrat Umm Hawsh region in northern Syria.

Between 160 and 200 militia fighters were killed, it said. The targets struck areas that Syrian Kurdish forces recently took over as they pressed a campaign to drive IS militants from areas north of Aleppo.

The Syrian Kurdish forces have been a source of tension between Turkey and the United States. The U.S. considers the militia group — the People's Protection Units, known as the YPG — to be the most effective force against the IS group



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a meeting in Ankara, Turkey, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016. Turkish jets have struck the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia north of the embattled city of Aleppo, killing as many as 200 militia members, Turkey's state-run news agency reported Thursday.

(Kayhan Ozer, PPS via AP)

in Syria. Turkey calls it an extension of its own outlawed Kurdish militants who have carried out deadly attacks in Turkey and considers it a terrorist organization.

A U.S. defense official in Washington said the Syrian Kurdish fighters targeted by Turkish airstrikes Wednesday are not among the Kurdish groups that U.S. forces are advising and assisting, so there were no U.S. troops with those Kurds when they

came under attack. The official said Thursday, however, that since the Kurds who were targeted are affiliated with U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters, the Turkish attacks were problematic and have angered the U.S.-backed Kurds. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

In August, Turkey sent troops and tanks into north-

ern Syria to help opposition forces drive IS away from Turkish-Syrian border areas and to curb the Syrian Kurdish forces' territorial expansion.

Iham Ahmed, a senior Syrian Kurdish official, said the Turkish attack was an aggression on her people's aspiration for self-administration in a contiguous territory in the north as well as a threat to the U.S.-led anti-terrorism fight there. □

Seeking to block rival, Abbas calls for Fatah, PLO elections

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is pushing for leadership elections in his Fatah movement and the PLO before the end of the year, as part of what senior officials say is largely an elaborate attempt to block the return of an exiled rival backed by several Arab states.

Abbas's decision to hold

such elections is a response to growing Arab pressure to take back Mohammed Dahlan, a former top aide and millionaire businessman who in exile forged close ties with leaders of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and other countries in the region.

The 81-year-old Abbas has no plans to step down or designate a successor, despite a recent health scare in which doctors ordered

an unscheduled heart exam prompted by complaints of fatigue. However, those elected to top posts in Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization — if the vote isn't delayed — could form a pool of potential successors, though none would likely challenge Abbas as long as he is in office.

Abbas has dedicated much of his energy to seemingly petty domes-

tic power plays, including fighting off perceived rivals like Dahlan, at a time when other avenues of action appear blocked. Negotiations with Israel have effectively been frozen since hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu became prime minister in 2009. Meanwhile, the Palestinian quest for statehood has been upstaged by bloody conflicts in the region, including in Syria and Iraq. □

Typhoon Haima leaves at least 7 dead in Philippines

BULLIT MARQUEZ

Associated Press

VIGAN, Philippines (AP)

— Super Typhoon Haima weakened and blew out to

the catastrophe wrought by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, but there were no immediate reports of any major damage. Several villages

Cabalteja told The Associated Press in Vigan city in Ilocos Sur province. "We haven't slept. Trees were forced down, houses lost

Trinidad town in the mountain province of Benguet, officials said, while two villagers perished in another landslide and another was swept away in a river and remains missing in Ifugao province, near Benguet. A 70-year-old man died apparently of a heart attack in an emergency shelter while another man died after being pinned by a fallen tree in Isabela province. One other typhoon-related death was reported in northern Ilocos region but details were not immediately available.

Haima, with sustained winds of 225 kilometers (140 miles) per hour, hit northeastern Cagayan province late Wednesday then barreled northwestward before blowing out into the South China Sea with sustained winds of 150 kilometers (93 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 185 kph (115 mph), according to forecasters.

Although weakening, the typhoon was expected to blow toward China, Filipino forecasters said.

After dawn, the extent of damage in Cagayan — about 500 kilometers (310 miles) north of Manila — and nearby regions became evident, with overturned vans, toppled or leaning electric posts and debris blocking roads. □



A resident uses a bamboo raft to bring goats to a dry area after being trapped following the flooding brought about by Super Typhoon Haima which lashed Vigan township, Ilocos Sur province in northern Philippines Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016. Super Typhoon Haima slammed into the northeastern Philippine coast late Wednesday with ferocious winds and rain that rekindled fears and memories from the catastrophe wrought by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

sea Thursday after smashing into the northern Philippines with ferocious wind and rain overnight. Flooding, landslides and power outages were evident, but large casualties appeared to have been averted after nearly 100,000 people fled to safer ground.

Haima's blinding winds and rain had rekindled fears of

are cut off by fallen trees, landslides and floods, impeding communications and aid.

Although storms are a part of life in the country's north, many villagers were still horrified by Haima's fury. "In my age, I'm 60 years old, this is the strongest typhoon I have ever seen," village councilor Willie

their roofs and fences and metal sheets were flying around all night."

At least seven people were killed in the storm, officials said. But the evacuations from high-risk communities helped prevent a larger number of casualties. Two construction workers died when a landslide buried their shanty in La

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

US, South Korea detect 2nd failed North Korean launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States and South Korea said they detected a failed North Korean missile launch Wednesday, the country's second failed test in less than a week.

The U.S. Strategic Command issued a statement early Thursday saying it presumed the missile was a Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missile. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Thursday that the launch was attempted near an airport in North Korea's Pyongan province, where the North on Saturday unsuccessfully tried to

launch what U.S. and South Korean military officials as-

sessed as the same type of missile.

Cho June-hyuck, spokesman of South Korea's Foreign Ministry, said the latest launches show North Korea's "fanatical obsession" with nuclear weapons and missile developments.

"Such repeated provocations only aggravate North Korea's isolation from the international community and economic hardship and further strengthen the international community's determination toward (adopting) a new resolution of strong sanctions," Cho said.

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, said

the U.S. condemns the attempted missile launch, calling it a provocation. He said the U.S. government intends to raise its concerns at the United Nations.

Musudan missiles have a potential range of about 3,500 kilometers (2,180 miles), which would put U.S. military bases in Guam within their striking distance. North Korea is also pushing to develop a nuclear-armed long-range missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, although U.S. and South Korean experts believe it doesn't currently have such a weapon.

North Korea on Wednesday vowed to continue

launching satellites as part of its "peaceful" space development plans, although outsiders see the country's space launches as a cover for banned tests of long-range missile technology. Experts say a militarized version of the rocket the North used to put its second satellite into orbit in February would potentially have the range to reach the U.S. mainland.

An anchor from North Korea's state-run Korean Central Television said that the North Korea will launch more satellites to "conquer" space, even if rival South Korea "barks" at the launches like a "mad dog." □

UNESCO urges halt to Bangladesh coal plant plan for delta

KATY DAIGLE

JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— The U.N. agency devoted to preserving world heritage has joined environmental groups urging Bangladesh to halt plans for a massive coal-fired power plant near ecologically sensitive mangrove forests on the coast. UNESCO says it poses a "serious threat" to a region that protects the nation from flooding and holds one of the world's last populations of wild tigers. Bangladesh countered on Thursday that the concerns were misplaced, and that it would continue with construction as the 1.3-gigawatt Rampal power station was crucial for expanding electricity capacity in a country where only six out of 10 people have access.

It said the report released this week by UNESCO and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature ignored government assurances that the plant would be safe. "They have prepared the report from their own point of view. Our concerns have not been included," said Nasrul Hamid, the country's junior power minister. The \$1.8 billion project — approved

In 2012 under a joint venture between the Indian and Bangladeshi state power companies — calls for building what would be Bangladesh's largest coal plant just 65 kilometers (40 miles) from the low-lying delta region called the Sundarbans, comprised of about 200 islands at the northern fringe of the Bay of Bengal. The Sundarbans, formed over millennia as rivers deposited silt carried down from the Himalayas, is teeming with wildlife including a few hundred endangered tigers and endangered species of river dolphins. It is also home to some 13 million impoverished Bangladeshis and Indians, who are mostly off the electricity grid and would not benefit directly from the project. □



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Philippine President announces separation from US



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands after a signing ceremony in Beijing, China, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016. Duterte was meeting Thursday with Xi in Beijing as part of a charm offensive aimed at seeking trade and support from the Asian giant by setting aside a thorny territorial dispute.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, Pool)

CHRIS BODEEN
GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced that his country is separating from the U.S. in a speech before a Beijing economic forum on Thursday, after handing China a major diplomatic victory, agreeing to resume dialogue on their South China Sea territorial dispute following months of acrimony.

The rapprochement between the two Asia nations could widen a political rift between the United States and the Philippines, whose recently elected leader has made no secret of its antipathy for America and ordered an end to joint maneuvers between their militaries.

"Your honors, in this venue, I announce my separation from the United States ... both in military and economics also," Duterte said. His remarks were met with applause, but Duterte was not more specific.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said Duterte's remarks were "inexplicably

at odds with the very close relationship we have with the Filipino people as well as the government there on many different levels, not just from a security perspective."

Following talks in Beijing between Duterte and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, a senior Chinese diplomat announced the sides had agreed to restore the full range of contacts, although he said the leaders touched only briefly on the South China Sea.

"Both sides agreed that the South China Sea issue is not the sum total of the bilateral relationship," Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin told reporters.

The two sides agreed to return to the approach used five years ago of seeking a settlement through bilateral dialogue, Liu said.

That was followed with an announcement by Philippine Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez at a bilateral economic forum that his country and China will sign \$13.5 billion of deals this week. He did not elaborate.

Separately, the Philippines Presidential Communica-

tions Office said Xi committed more than \$9 billion in low-interest loans to the country, with about a third of the loan offer coming from private banks. About \$15 million in loans will go toward drug rehabilitation programs.

In opening remarks to his talks with Xi, Duterte hailed a warming of relations with China.

China has been a friend of the Philippines and the roots of our bonds are very deep and not easily severed," he said. "Even as we arrive in Beijing, close to winter, this is a springtime of our relationship."

Xi, who greeted Duterte with full military honors at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of the ceremonial legislature in the

heart of Beijing, said the meeting had "milestone significance." In a reference to the South China Sea tensions, Xi said that "although we have weathered storms, the basis of our friendship and our desire for cooperation has not changed."

While not mentioning the South China Sea specifically, Xi said that the two sides could set aside "issues on which an agreement is hard to reach" in their discussions, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. Bilateral talks had been suspended after China seized control of Scarborough Shoal, off the main Luzon Island in the northern Philippines, and the Philippines launched the arbitration process un-

der Duterte's predecessor. The Philippines has insisted the ruling form the basis for any negotiations, while Beijing has insisted on the opposite.

The Philippine leader known for his devil-may-care, profanity-laden speeches had said he would not raise the issue that has angered China unless his Chinese counterpart first brought it up, out of "courtesy" to his host.

Duterte's visit showed his desire for economic benefits, while the Chinese want to manage issues between the two countries through bilateral talks, Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., wrote in an email. □



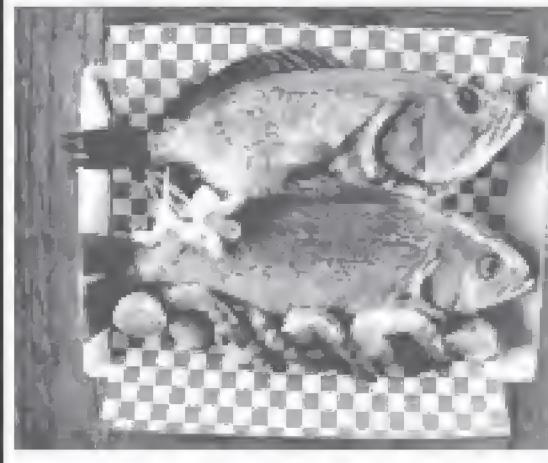
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Colombia leader asks tax hike to offset oil dip, peace costs

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government is seeking to raise taxes to offset a plunge in oil revenue and an ambitious spending program to end a half century conflict with leftist rebels. Low oil prices have been driving a hole in Colom-

bia's public finances ever since the price of crude began collapsing in 2014. But President Juan Manuel Santos, winner of this year's Nobel Peace prize, had put off presenting his tax reform for months for fear of alienating voters ahead of a referendum on a peace deal with the Revolutionary

Armed Forces of Colombia. Voters narrowly rejected the deal this month anyway, delivering a major blow to Santos' efforts to bring an end to the bloody conflict.

But even as the peace deal hangs by a thread the need for additional funding hasn't gone away. Facing

a deadline to pass the tax hike for it to take effect next year, Santos presented his proposal Wednesday night to congress, where it was met with hostility even by lawmakers who are strong backers of the president's peace drive. Regular Colombians, who blame Santos for neglecting the

economy while focusing squarely on peace, also expressed outrage.

"It's a profoundly regressive tax reform intended to punish all the people, and the popular and middle classes, while favoring transnationals," said Senator Jorge Robledo of the leftist Democratic Pole party. □

American sets to cross Pacific in reed boat, reach Australia

CARLOS VALDEZ

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — In the age of space travel, an American explorer is preparing to cross the Pacific Ocean from South America to Australia using a reed boat built by Bolivian Aymara Indians.

The expedition seeks to prove that ancient mariners could have made such journeys across huge ocean expanses in reed ships, and that such vessels could have been a factor in human migration.

The nearly 60-foot (18-meter) boat was built in La Paz at more than 11,800 feet (3,600-meters) above sea level. It uses techniques developed by the Indigenous people of the Andes cordillera to ply the waters of Lake Titicaca.

"This type of technology doesn't exist anymore; it's like an art form. I admire these people and their culture," said 51-year-old adventurer Phil Buck, who leads the project.

The six-month expedition due to start in February seeks to cross more than 10,000 nautical miles from northern Chile to Sidney, Australia.



American explorer Phil Buck walks past the reed boat named the "Viracocha III," and built by Bolivian Aymara Indians, in La Paz, Bolivia, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. Buck is preparing to cross the Pacific Ocean from South America to Australia in the Viracocha III, a three-masted boat that was made from several tons of dried reeds of the totora plant. The expedition seeks to prove that ancient mariners could have made such journeys across huge ocean expanses in reed ships, and that such vessels could have been a factor in human migration.

(AP Photo/Juan Karita)

Buck made a similar trip in 2000 when he used a Bolivian-crafted reed boat to travel 3,500 nautical miles from Chile to Easter Island. An attempt to reach Australia in 2003 was interrupted by damage to the boat. "On this second try, I'm sure we'll reach all the way to Australia," Buck said as he

supervised the construction of the vessel known in Spanish as a balsa. "Such a distant journey has never been done before and the goal is to show how far these rustic boats can go." Buck said his dream of exploring the world began at the age of 11 when he read the best-selling book

by Thor Heyerdahl about the famed adventurer's journey aboard the balsa raft Kon-Tiki. In 1947, Heyerdahl and his team sailed their primitive raft 5,000 miles from Peru to Polynesia in 101 days to support Heyerdahl's theory that the South Sea Islands were settled by ancient mariners

from South America. The Viracocha III was named after the supreme Inca deity who is believed to have created the sun and the moon on Lake Titicaca. The expedition's crew includes up to 10 people of different nationalities.

They will navigate mostly by the stars and currents and will feed themselves with grains, including the Andean quinoa.

The three-masted boat was made from several tons of dried reeds of the totora plant.

It will be transported on a trailer along more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) from the Andean highlands to the Chilean desert port of Arica.

Seventy-one-year-old Juan Limachi has been building the reed boats since the age of 7, using the technology inherited from his Aymara ancestors.

He now wants to retire knowing that his final work helped an expedition reach another part of the world.

"This is my dream after building these 25 giant boats," he said. □

Cuba freezes new licenses for private restaurants in Havana

M. WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba is freezing new licenses for private restaurants in Havana as it struggles with the runaway success of one of the most important openings in the state-run economy. The country was once famed for its dire state restaurants and cafeterias, but it's developed a vibrant

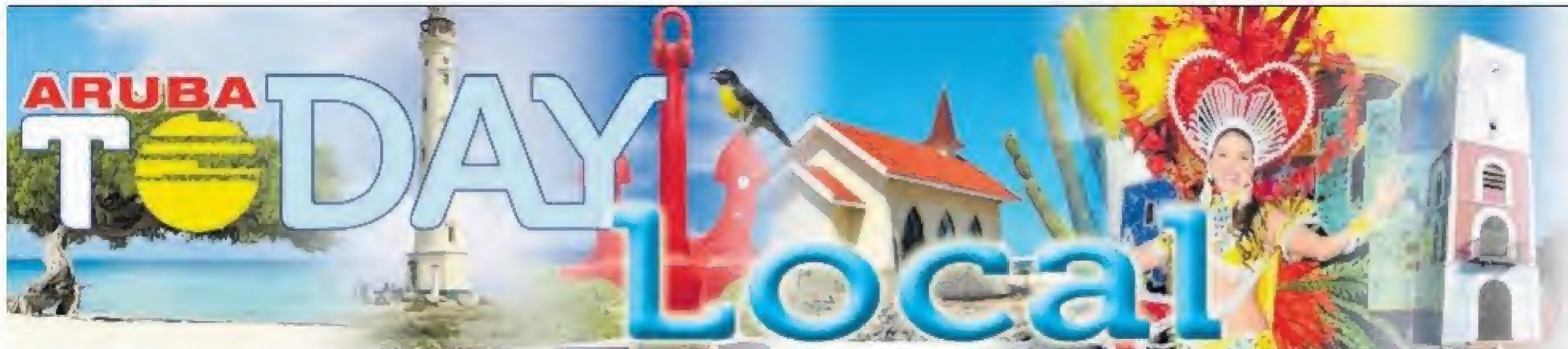
dining scene since private restaurants were legalized two decades ago. A sector that began with enterprising Cubans setting up a handful of tables in their backyards has expanded into an industry of hundreds of restaurants with offerings ranging from freshly caught sushi to sophisticated interpretations of classic Cuban dishes. However, the

private restaurateurs lack a wholesale market or legal way to import supplies and equipment. So they've been emptying the shelves of retail shops and buying other goods on the black market. That has led to rising food prices and shortages of goods for other Cubans. Acting Vice President Isabel Hamze told state media on Wednesday

that Havana's provincial government is temporarily freezing the approval of new licenses and is inspecting restaurants to detect violations ranging from prostitution, drug use and excessive noise to illegal importation and purchase of stolen goods.

She said one business had been closed because it was operating a bar and

nightclub in violation of a license exclusively meant for restaurants. Hamze's statements appeared intended to reassure restaurant owners and Havana residents that the measures were not a crackdown on private restaurants but rather an attempt to impose common-sense regulations on issues ranging from closing times and parking spaces.



KLM Aruba Championship 2016 Golf Tournament is Top Flight!

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-Eddy Rivera showed his consistency and strong ball striking ability capturing the Low Gross title with two consistent rounds of 75 & 73.

-Hunt Riley was crowned as A-Flight winner, after a three-way tie, it took him a three-hole sudden death play-off to fend off Vijay Luidens and Orlando Ras-mijn. This was a truly nail biting occurrence, and with

strong first round with an evenly impressive second round and convincingly captured the title.

-Bjorn Angela came from four strokes back after the first round to take the crown in the C-Flight with a very strong performance on Sunday.

-Kim Tilleman won a very closely contested Ladies Flight. After taking a two shot lead onto the final round, it was a very close battle for the win and Kim managed to hold off Carla Schipper to take the victory by just one stroke. Every flight had its competitive moments and this was all capped off by the award dinner celebration,



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many of the other participants going back out on the Golf Course to watch this, it really added to the drama.

-Papi Delisewon the B-Flight, he followed up a

where comradery and celebration united all the participants to celebrate a very successful 2016 KLM Aruba Championship.

Continued on page 14

KLM Aruba Championship 2016 Golf Tournament is Top Flight!



Continued from page 13

All the pictures capturing the various events that took place during KLM Aruba Championship 2016 will be uploaded on Tierra del Sol Facebook page stay tuned! Once again, Thanks to all and everybody is already

looking forward to next year's event!

Results:

-A-Flight Winner: 1st Hunt Riley; 2nd Vijay Luidens; 3rd Orlando Rasmijn.

-B-Flight Winner: 1st PapiDelisle; 2nd Gino Pourier; 3rd Ron Moser.

-C-Flight Winner: 1st Bjorn



Angela; 2nd Oscar Hellmeyer; 3rd Giovanni v/ Wijk.

-Ladies Winner: 1st Kim Tillerman; 2nd Carla Schipper.

-Low Gross Winner: 1st Place Eddie Riviera

-Day 1 Closest to Pin: #7 Gregory Croeze; #13 Or-

Iando Rasmijn.

-Day 2 Closest to Pin: #3 Orlando Rasmijn; #17 Rob Nolle. □

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Loyal Guests Honored at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort

NOORD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a large group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary titles

are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees for Distinguished Visitors were Ms. Mary Ann Gilardi, Mr. Salvatore and Mrs. Pamela Cuo-

mo, Mr. Russell and Mrs. Helen Cody, and Mr. John and Mrs. Patricia Connors, all from Massachusetts, Mr. Andre and Mrs. Janice Waterman from New York, and Mr. Peter and Mrs. Dorothy Behrle from Florida.

The honoree for Goodwill Ambassador was Ms. Car-

men Chiclana from New York. All of these guests are loyal members of the Caribbean Palm Village Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Caribbean

Palm Village Resort is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family and friends of the honorees and Mislady from the Caribbean Palm Village Resort. □



Amid Regional Economic Contractions; Labor Indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean Continue to Weaken



ECLAC hosts the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador.

-ECLAC/ILO report indicates that urban unemployment rose during the first half of 2016 and could average 8.6% this year, with notable heterogeneity among countries and sub-regions.

QUITO, ECUADOR - During the first half of 2016, labor markets in Latin America and the Caribbean con-

tinued suffering the effects of a regional economic contraction, registering a significant rise in the unemployment rate and an overall deterioration in their

indicators, according to a new report by ECLAC and the ILO.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) released today issue No 15 of their joint publication Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean (in Spanish), in which they analyze the region's labor performance during the first half of this year.

The report indicates that, according to the most recent projections, the regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will contract -0.9% in 2016.

During the first half of the year, this contraction resulted in a 0.6 percentage point decline in the urban employment rate, which, when coupled with an increase in the participation rate, caused unemployment to rise by 1.6 percentage points compared with the same period last year. The urban employment rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed, while the participation rate refers to the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed (meaning that people who are outside the labor force are excluded, mainly students, housewives, retirees, etc.).

During the second half of 2016, no significant improvement in the labor situation is expected at a regional level, the study indicates. The contraction in regional GDP and its impact on labor demand should serve to hold the interannual decline in the employment rate steady. At the same time, the expansion of informal jobs—and self-employment work above all—is seen lessening this impact in quantitative terms, but would reflect a deterioration in job quality.

The document adds that the regional urban open unemployment rate is expected to keep rising and to end 2016 at 8.6%. On average, regional unemploy-

ment reached 7.0% in 2014 and 7.4% in 2015.^[1]

"Although this negative performance has been strongly influenced by the case of Brazil and its heft in the weighted averages, all the other South American countries with available information, except Peru, are also suffering increases in their unemployment rate. In contrast, in Central American countries and the Caribbean, with the exception of Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, the unemployment rate declined," Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC's Executive Secretary, and José Manuel Salazar, the ILO's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, indicate in the document's prologue.

They add that this notable heterogeneity among subregions can also be observed in the available indicators on job quality, the interannual change in registered employment, and on real wages in formal employment.

Along with analyzing the region's labor situation, the ECLAC/ILO report addresses the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in global supply chains and its impact on decent employment.

It indicates that the region's insertion is weaker than that of other areas of the world and states that the relatively poor linkages shown by Latin American and Caribbean economies reflect a low degree of productive diversification.

In that sense, the document notes that the impact of exports on employment is greater for indirect employment, especially in sectors such as mining or food production, than it is for direct employment.

The report also analyzes some examples of countries in the region that have achieved improved economic insertion in global supply chains, which can then translate into social improvements through more job creation, higher wages and greater labor formality.□

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NHL, NHLPA
launch program
to help players
prepare for future

STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

The NHL and NHLPA want players to plan for life after hockey long before they hang up their skates.

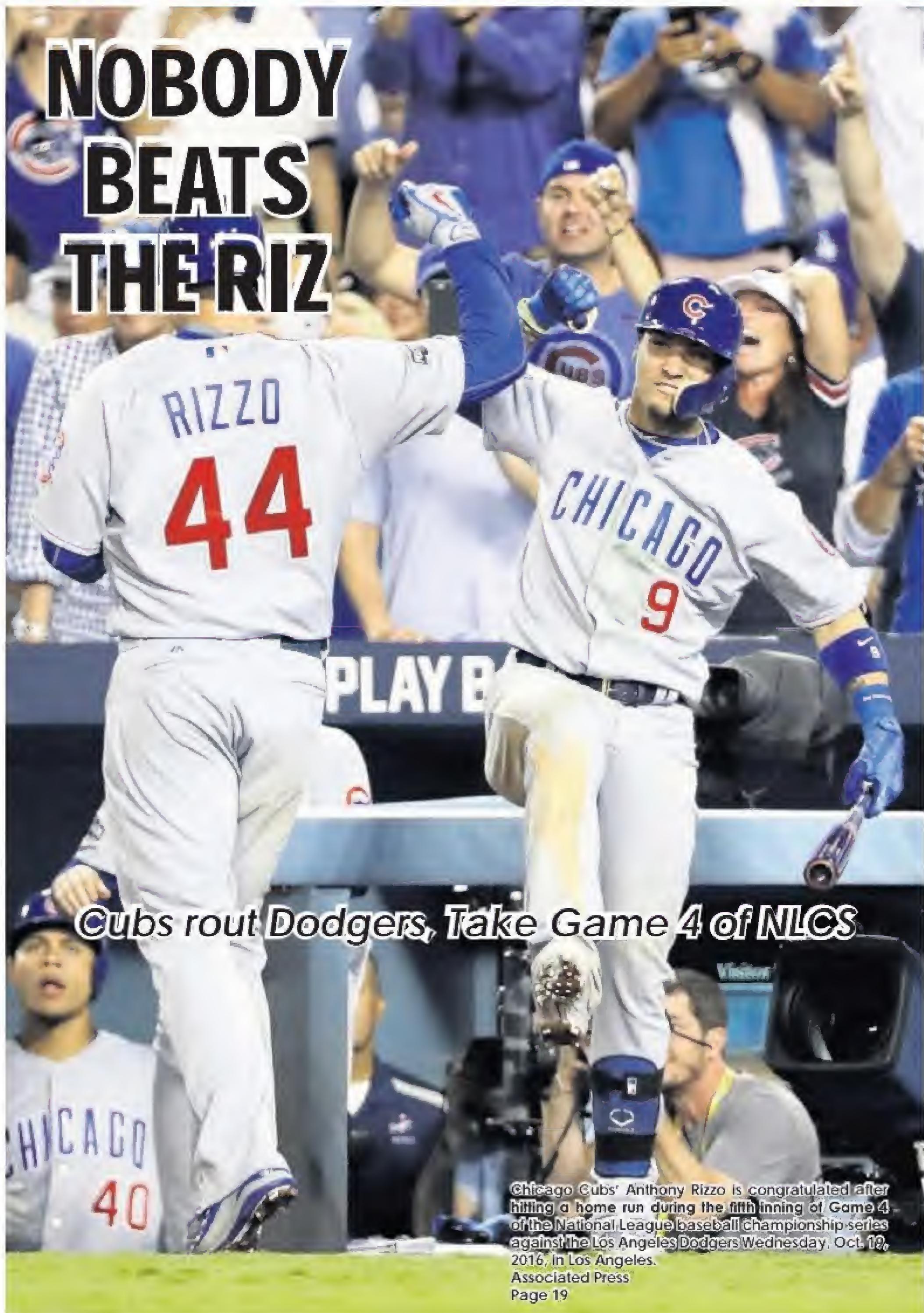
Now they have an avenue to do so.

The league and union on Thursday announced a new program intended to help players further their education, network and find out what jobs they may be suited for, such as finance and broadcasting. The goal of the Core Development Program is to connect with players early so the transition to life after hockey is easier. "It's not just for players late in their careers," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said. "It's going to be focused on players and really raising awareness among even the younger players that the sooner they can start focusing on the longer term, the better off they'll generally be — as much in their careers as after their careers."

The NFL, NBA and MLB all have resources to help players transition after retirement, and the NHL Alumni has one with the Break Away program. This new endeavor is closer to the NFL and NFLPA's Player Engagement department that focuses on continued education, financial stability and career development.

Retired defenseman Mathieu Schneider, now the NHLPA's special assistant to the executive director, said player feedback as far back as 2013 helped spawn the new program. He said he believes players are generally conscious of the uncertainty of life after hockey and many wanted more assistance.

Continued on page 22



2-time Olympic ski champion Tina Maze announces retirement

ERIC WILLEMSSEN

Associated Press

SOELDEN, Austria (AP) —

The skier best known for crushing the overall World Cup points record and celebrating her victories with a cartwheeling handspring, announced her retirement. Two-time Olympic champion Tina Maze of Slovenia said on Thursday she will quit the sport after competing in one more race, a World Cup giant slalom on home soil in Maribor on Jan. 7.

"I am really happy with what I've achieved. I don't feel the need to compete at such a high level anymore," Maze said.

The Slovenian started her World Cup career with a GS in Maribor, as a 15-year-old in 1999.

The four-time Olympian's announcement was not unexpected.

A few weeks after winning two gold medals at the 2015 world championships in Vail and Beaver Creek, Colorado, Maze was beaten for the overall title by Anna Veith, then competing under her maiden



In this March 17, 2013 file photo Slovenia's Tina Maze poses with the alpine ski World cup overall trophy in Lenzerheide Switzerland.

Associated Press

name, Fenninger. Maze took a year off from the slopes and got her degree in elementary education. The move prompted year-long speculation about her career, but Maze always kept all options open until announcing her decision two days before the World Cup season-opener on the Rettenbach glacier in Soelden on Saturday.

"I was always thinking about it," Maze said. "I have a big motivation to compete one last time in

front of my home crowd." Maribor will be her last World Cup, but Maze did not rule out defending her world downhill title in St. Moritz in February.

"Now I live by the day," Maze said, adding she will decide about a start in Switzerland in the weeks leading up to the championships. As the defending champion, she wouldn't have to qualify.

Maze's rise to the top started in 2008 when she set up her own independent

team, led by her Italian coach and boyfriend, Andrea Massi. They called it the Team to aMaze.

Maze won her first of 13 medals at major championships the following year, taking GS silver at the worlds in Val d'Isere, France. She added two more silver medals at the Vancouver Olympics the next year.

Finishing fourth in the 2010 overall World Cup standings, Maze improved one spot each year and finally won the big crystal globe to cap a record-breaking season in 2013.

Maze won 11 races that season, took the GS and super-G titles, and broke the overall World Cup points record in a single season. She beat the previous mark of 2,000, set by Austrian great Hermann Maier in 2000, by another 414 points.

The same season, Maze also became only the sixth female skier to win events in all five Alpine disciplines, with American standout Lindsey Vonn the only other active achiever.

Her World Cup results fad-

ed in the following season, but Maze went back to the top when she won Slovenia's first ever gold medal at the Winter Olympics by sharing victory in the Sochi downhill with Dominique Gisin of Switzerland.

"At the moment it is not easy for me," Massi said, adding he was particularly proud of his girlfriend reaching the top of her sport without doping.

"Tina is the best proof to young athletes that you can become the best on normal food: Schnitzels, pasta, vegetables, and goulash soup."

Known as a gritty competitor who doesn't try to hide her mood after not winning a race, Maze once said she becomes "completely inaccessible" when things are not going her way.

"That is just who I am. I certainly do not want to be rude," said Maze, who in 2012 displayed her singing talent by entering the charts in her home country. The song was fittingly named, "My way is my decision." □



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return shot against Viktor Troicki of Serbia during the men's singles match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016.

Associated Press

Nadal puts end to 2016 season because of left wrist injury

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal is cutting short his 2016 season so he can fully recover from a left wrist injury.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion said Thursday he is still bothered by the injury that kept him out of action for more than two months this season and wants to treat it properly before coming back in 2017.

"Now it is time to rest and start preparing intensively

(for) the 2017 season," the 30-year-old Spaniard said in a statement.

Nadal said he will miss indoor tournaments in Basel, Switzerland, next week and Paris next month. He is also ruled out of the season-ending ATP Finals in London next month.

Nadal said he forced his recovery to be able to play in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and that caused him to be in pain in every tournament since then.

Nadal has slipped to No. 6 in the rankings. He won back-to-back clay-court titles in Barcelona and Monte Carlo last spring but has not won any tournaments since then.

The statement said the original injury healed properly but the pain in the wrist area kept bothering him and kept him from performing well. □

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Cubs homer twice in 10-2 win over Dodgers; tie NLCS 2-2

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After striking out in his first two at-bats, Anthony Rizzo was seeking a slump buster. He found one in teammate Matt Szczur's bat.

Using the borrowed lumber, Rizzo homered and ended a postseason skid with three RBIs. The rest of the Chicago Cubs' hitters broke out equally as big in routing the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-2 on Wednesday to even the NL Championship Series at 2-all.

"I know Szczur's bat has a lot of hits in it," Rizzo said. "I've done it a few times this year, just switching up the bat, switching up the mindset."

Addison Russell's two-run homer highlighted a four-run fourth that stopped Chicago's 21-inning scoreless streak and ensured the NLCS will return to Wrigley Field for Game 6 on Saturday.

"It's definitely a sigh of relief to have a big night," Russell said.

Kenta Maeda is set to pitch for the Dodgers in Game 5 on Thursday against Jon Lester. Manager Dave Roberts said he will not start Clayton Kershaw on short rest after the Los Angeles ace threw a bullpen session Wednesday.

"It's not an elimination game," Roberts said.

Following consecutive shutout losses, the Cubs rapped out 13 hits on an 80-degree (26 degrees Celsius) night with the warm Santa Ana winds fluttering the flags in center field.

Rizzo used Szczur's bat on Tuesday night and got a broken-bat single. Szczur, left off the NLCS roster, didn't mind. He wrapped another one for Game 4, figuring Rizzo might want to use the bat that is the same weight and size but a different model than his.

"I just saw him walking up with my bat, and I started laughing," Szczur said. "And then he hits a homer with it."

Rizzo and Russell had three hits each. Chicago's 3-4-5 hitters — a combined 2 for 32 in the first three games

— busted out. Every Cubs starter got at least one hit except Kris Bryant, who walked twice and was hit by a pitch.

"It's contagious, just like the lack of it is contagious," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "When you start hitting, it's contagious, defense, this whole game really follows itself."

Los Angeles was limited to six hits and made four errors in a game that dragged on for 3 hours, 58 minutes.

"It happens, but we haven't had a game like that in a long time," Roberts said. "You've got to brush off and get ready for tomorrow."

Mike Montgomery won in relief of John Lackey, removed after consecutive walks opening the fifth. Four days shy of his 38th birthday, Lackey allowed two runs, three hits and three walks.

"I thought we put ourselves in a position to get to Lackey, but he escaped," Roberts said.

At 20 years, 68 days the youngest postseason starting pitcher in major league history, Julio Urias gave up four runs and four hits in 3 2/3 innings. He was the third consecutive left-hander to start for Los Angeles.

"I wish I had taken advantage of this outing," he said through a translator.

Chicago rattled off three straight hits to open the fourth, sparked by Ben Zobrist's leadoff bunt single to third.

"With the way that our bats were swinging it at the beginning of the game, we just had to do anything we could. That was my thought process," Zobrist said. "I felt like if he threw a strike, I could get one down in a good spot and was able to do it."

He took second on Javier Baez's single to left, and Willson Contreras followed with a single to nearly the same spot in shallow left, scoring Zobrist.

Baez moved to third and Contreras took second on left fielder Andrew Toles' errant throw to the plate that skidded all the way to the backstop.



Chicago Cubs' Addison Russell celebrates his two-run home run with teammate Dexter Fowler during the fourth inning of Game 4 of the National League baseball championship series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



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Booming bats of Bautista, Encarnacion could leave Jays' nest

IAN HARRISON

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — In back-to-back postseasons, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion hit the two biggest home runs Blue Jays fans had seen in a generation. But after making baseball history in Toronto, both might be about to become history in Toronto.

One year after a six-game AL Championship Series loss to eventual champion Kansas City, the Blue Jays fell to World Series-bound Cleveland in five-games Wednesday. Now a winter of change is expected. Bautista and Encarnacion highlight a list of nine Toronto free agents, including six on this year's playoff roster. Largely unheralded when each arrived by trade — Bautista from Pittsburgh in 2008 and Encarnacion from Cincinnati in 2009 — the Dominican sluggers developed into All-Stars. The team evolved, too, from an also-ran playing before sparse crowds to a contender that led the American League in attendance this season, reinvigorating a national audience across Canada.

After Toronto ended a 22-year playoff drought with an AL East title last year, Bautista blasted the Blue Jays into the ALCS with a three-run homer to win Game 5 against Texas, punctuating his shot with a memorable bat flip.

This year it was Encarnacion's turn, with a three-run drive in the 11th inning to



Toronto Blue Jays' Jose Bautista, left, listens as Edwin Encarnacion, center, and home plate umpire Laz Diaz exchange words after Encarnacion was called out on strikes during the eighth inning in Game 1 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the Cleveland Indians in Cleveland, Friday, Oct. 14, 2016.

beat Baltimore in the wild card game.

The two homers are Toronto's most indelible moments since Joe Carter's World Series walk-off gave the Blue Jays a second straight title in 1993.

"They really helped put this team back on the map again, what they've accomplished," manager John Gibbons said. "Both of them made their name here in Toronto. But baseball is still a business. It's a game we play, but it's still a big business and guys earn the right to try free agency."

In a September radio interview, Blue Jays President

Mark Shapiro said "probably the most likely scenario" was that Toronto's free agents would be allowed to hit the open market. Outfielder Michael Saunders, right-hander R.A. Dickey, left-hander Brett Cecil and right-hander Joaquin Benoit are among the remainder of that group.

A sold-out crowd of 48,000 roared as Bautista and Encarnacion batted in the ninth inning Wednesday. Afterward, Encarnacion acknowledged mixed emotions about his future. "I'm really sad because I don't know what's going to happen next," Encarnacion said through an inter-

preter. "But overall I feel really proud for the fans and what this organization has done for me."

Bautista (265) and Encarnacion (239) rank second and third behind Carlos Delgado (336) on the Blue Jays' career home run list. Encarnacion signed a three-year, \$29 million deal in 2013 and is coming off a team option at \$10 million.

After matching a career-best with 42 homers and career-high 127 RBIs, he could command a nine-figure contract.

Encarnacion stopped to sign autographs and pose for pictures with fans still

Associated Press

chanting his name as he left the stadium more than two hours after Game 5. Citing an affection for the city, he called Toronto his "first choice" in free agency.

Bautista signed a \$65 million, five-year deal in 2011 and the team picked up a \$14 million option this season. The six-time All-Star arrived at spring training openly demanding a big raise, but may not earn what he once hoped. Limited to 116 games by injuries, he finished with 22 homers, his lowest total since 2009, and 69 RBIs.

In a somber clubhouse Wednesday, Bautista said he wasn't in the "proper state of mind" to consider whether he and longtime friend Encarnacion had played in Toronto together for the final time.

"I know it's a possibility but we'll see what happens," Bautista said.

Even if their free agents find new homes, the Blue Jays still have several key players under contract next season, including 2015 AL MVP Josh Donaldson, shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and catcher Russell Martin. Toronto also controls closer Roberto Osuna, AL ERA leader Aaron Sanchez and four other starters from the rotation that posted a league-low 3.64 ERA.

Shapiro has said Gibbons will return for in 2017, the final year of his contract. The rest of Toronto's coaching staff is also expected to stay. □

'Wild Thing' offers to throw out ceremonial first pitch

BY TOM WITHERS

AP SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Wild Thing is warming up for the Indians.

Actor Charlie Sheen, who played the bespectacled Ricky "Wild Thing" Vaughn in the movie "Major League," has offered to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before one of this year's World Series games. Shortly after Cleveland won the AL pennant on Wednesday in Toronto, fans began posting their wishes on social media to have Sheen — well, Vaughn

— be part of the pregame festivities. The Series opens Tuesday in Cleveland.

Sheen responded to the demand Thursday on Twitter, posting a photo of himself as Vaughn in his Indians uniform and wrote, "Major League continues to be the gift that keeps on giving! If called upon, I'd be honored."

Sheen has already made an appearance during the playoffs.

He was at Dodger Stadium on Wednesday when the Chicago Cubs beat Los

Angeles in Game 4 of the NL Championship Series.

Released in 1989, "Major League" is a fictional account of the Indians finishing in first place with an unconventional group of players including Vaughn, who struggled to find the strike zone and warmed up to "Wild Thing," a No. 1 hit song in 1966 by The Troggs. The real Cleveland Indians, who overcame injuries to win the AL Central, before knocking off Boston and Toronto in the playoffs, took a page from "Major League" earlier this season. □



Actor Charlie Sheen reacts during the fifth inning of Game 4 of the National League baseball championship series between the Chicago Cubs and the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



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Rams QB Keenum hoping better performance leads to more wins

ZAC BOYER

Associated Press

BAGSHOT, England (AP)

— As Los Angeles Rams quarterback Case Keenum was stringing together completions on Sunday, including all 18 of his attempts in the third quarter against the Detroit Lions, his teammates were unaware history had been made.

"Nobody knew how well he was doing until after the game and we found out that he completed 19 straight," left guard Rodger Saffold said. "He didn't even know it, and he's the one throwing them."

Keenum set a franchise record with those 19 consecutive completions, surpassing the 18 thrown by Jim Everett in a game against the New York Giants in 1989.

All told, Keenum went 27-for-32 for 321 yards and three touchdowns in what stands as a career-best performance.

Yet, it was his lone interception, which landed in the hands of safety Rafael Bush with 1:02 remaining, which allowed the Lions to preserve a 31-28 victory. If the Rams are to end their two-game skid and continue to improve offensively, beginning with Sunday's game against the Giants at Twickenham Stadium, Keenum believes that burden rests solely on him.

The accolades were great, he admitted, but the finish, in particular, bothered him. "I think you look at the NFL in general, all the great

(quarterbacks) — they're known for never being out of a game," Keenum said. "That's definitely something that I want to take pride in. No matter what the situation is, I want to be able to go down and score points."

The game against the Lions marked the second time in as many weeks in which one of Keenum's interceptions affected the outcome.

The Rams were tied with the Buffalo Bills late in the third quarter on Oct. 9 before the first of Keenum's two interceptions was returned 41 yards for what stood as the winning touchdown. In a way, those miscues are just part of the natural progression for Keenum, who is in his fifth season in the NFL but has started just 21 games. He's not a young quarterback — and certainly not one with the hype of his backup, Jared Goff, the No. 1 pick — but he's still growing.

"If you look around the league, there's miscues all over the place," coach Jeff Fisher said.

"What we're excited about is how the offense is starting to ascend over the past couple of weeks because we've played some good defenses early. If you exclude our opener at San Francisco, our offense has started to (take off), and he got very comfortable."

Of those 27 completions against the Lions, seven were to wide receiver Kenny Britt, who finished with 136 yards and two touchdowns.



Los Angeles Rams quarterback Case Keenum takes part in a practice session at Pennyhill Park Hotel in Bagshot, England, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016. The Los Angeles Rams are due to play the New York Jets at Twickenham stadium in London on Sunday in a regular season NFL game.

Associated Press

The Rams also strung together four drives of at least 70 yards, which tight end Lance Kendricks noted with particular pride.

Even the running game, which has stagnated through the first six weeks, picked up — which can only benefit Keenum.

Todd Gurley, the Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2015, averaged a season-best 4.1 yards per carry, finishing with 58 yards.

"I think the offense has stepped up a little bit," said Kendricks, who caught five passes for 34 yards and a touchdown.

"We put points on the board this past week, so we're feeling confident. We know we can move the ball."

Still, the Rams are averaging just 301.3 yards per game,

ranking second to last in the league, and their passing offense, at 220.5 yards per game, is 28th.

That means significant improvement is possible — something Keenum is embracing.

"I think you're always learning stuff about yourself, and for me, I want to always be getting better," Keenum said.

"I never want to feel like I've arrived or gotten there — wherever 'there' is. I think that's what all the good ones do. They continue to get better, no matter how long they've played or how many games they've played or how much experience they have."

NOTES: DE Robert Quinn (shoulder) completed a full practice on Thursday and is expected to return

after missing two games. DT Michael Brockers (thigh) and CB Trumaine Johnson (ankle) did not practice again. DT William Hayes (ankle) completed a full practice and LG Jamon Brown (hand) and WR Nelson Spruce (calf) were added to the injury report and were limited. ... Fisher downplayed the relevance of the fight that took place between the teams in their previous meeting in 2014. "Something got out of hand there with respect to both teams," he said. "We're not dwelling on that. We're just dwelling on what they're doing offensively." ... Defensive backs opened positional drills by throwing around a rugby ball. ... The NFL announced singer Craig David will perform before Sunday's game. □

Role reversal: Hamilton chasing Rosberg at US Grand Prix

JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Nico Rosberg sat slumped in his chair, exhausted and exasperated after another race and world title was taken away by Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton. Then came the hat toss seen around the world.

These friends-turned rivals return to Texas and the U.S. Grand Prix in very different places this week. This time, it's Rosberg with the big lead and Hamilton running out of time if he hopes to retain his Formula One championship.

Rosberg leads Hamilton by 33 points with four races left on the schedule. That means Hamilton has to make a big push starting Sunday on a track where he's won three of the last four years.

"America has been good hunting ground for me," Hamilton said. A win streak alone won't do it. Hamilton needs a bad race from Rosberg somewhere. If Rosberg finishes second three times and finishes third once, he'll still claim his first career championship. A Rosberg victory anywhere along the way

would all but clinch it.

"My frame of mind at the moment is to have fun," Hamilton said. "I'm determined to win. There's never a day in my life when I don't want to win. I could come here like I've got to win every race, but I've been racing a long time. I know what I'm doing so just go do it the best I can and enjoy."

Is that concession?

"Absolutely not," Hamilton said. "There's still 100 points out there. It's possible."

Four-time F1 champion Sebastian Vettel, who won a couple of close title chases, agreed.

"He's quick enough," Vettel said. "I'm sure he'll go for it. It's only over when it's over."

Rosberg may dictate when the end comes. He's been a different driver since his moment of post-race infamy in 2015.

After Hamilton clinched last season's title in Austin, he playfully tossed Rosberg his podium cap in the drivers' cool-down room. Rosberg immediately threw it back at him in a petulant moment captured on live television.

The split-second reaction



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, responds to a question from the media following a news conference for the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

symbolized the meltdown of Rosberg's title efforts and the relationship between two drivers who became friends when they were coming up through the junior circuits.

"Last year this race obviously didn't work out so great for me, so I'm looking forward to getting back out there and doing my best to get it right this time," Rosberg said.

Rosberg emerged from his Austin disaster with steely determination. He won the final three races of 2015 and the first four of 2016. A mid-season slump al-

lowed Hamilton to charge back from a 43-point deficit, but Rosberg has been coolly efficient of late with a run of four wins in the last five races.

Rosberg refused to be pulled into thinking about the pressure facing both drivers or whether he's walking a tightrope of emotion with a title so close within reach. His father, Keke Rosberg, won the championship in 1982.

"I don't know how much pressure Lewis is putting on himself ... I'm going to focus on this weekend," Rosberg said.

Rosberg also said he won't settle for the safety of second place on Sunday.

"I will try to push for the win, 100 percent," he said. "With the car I have, I can win on any track against Lewis."

Hamilton's title hopes took a huge dent two races ago in Malaysia when he was leading late but was forced to retire with an engine problem. Hamilton looked dejected when he got out of the car day and said it felt like "something or someone" was working against him.

"A higher power," he later said. "It feels right now that the man above or any higher power is intervening a little bit."

Like the previous two seasons, Mercedes has dominated the field with 15 wins in 17 races. No other driver has factored into the title chase.

If he loses the title, Hamilton said he'll "try to take it like a man because you can't win them all."

"Look at all the champions in the past who have who have won championships and lost championships," he said. "It is part of the game." □

NHL

C continued from page 17

"It's really to help guys figure out first what they think they're good at, and then second to help them figure out what they really are good at and to give them the tools to be successful at whatever it may be that they're interested in," said Schneider, who called the diversity of the union membership the biggest challenge. "You have a significant number of players that want to (get a college degree), you have a significant number of players that might want to start their own business, that want to be involved with finance, that want to become agents. While they're playing, they have incredible opportunities that other

people might not have." Some players have taken their own initiative in establishing non-hockey interests during their playing days, such as Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara getting his real estate license. Long-time forward Jeff Halpern, now an assistant coach for the American Hockey League's Syracuse Crunch, considers an example such as Chara the best way to sell this program to current players.

"I think it's easy when guys are ending their careers or at the end of their career for people to become interested because they realize that their window is closing," said Halpern, part owner of a fried chicken and doughnut shop in the Washington area. Getting through to young players may be the hardest obstacle for the league and

for the PA. I think most guys, they want to hear about other examples, other things that could be made available to them."

Washington Capitals defenseman Nate Schmidt is in the process of studying for his real estate exam and working with an adviser at the University of Minnesota. He said he thinks the program could help a lot of players fill their time and ease their minds.

"A lot of guys, I think, are just scared of what happens after they're done playing," Schmidt said. "Even for a guy that has a college degree, I'm kind of nervous for when that day might come."

Taking away the "What now?" nerves is another potential benefit of the program. In other words, a relaxed player is a better player.



FILE - In this April 12, 2010, file photo, Phoenix Coyotes' Mathieu Schneider skates during practice at Jobing.com Arena as the Coyotes prepare for their NHL hockey playoff series against the Detroit Red Wings in Glendale, Ariz. Now retired Schneider is now the NHLPA's special assistant to the executive director.

Associated Press

"There have been studies done that show that players that are prepared for life after sports, after their careers, actually perform better during their careers," Schneider said. "Maybe it alleviates the anxiety or the some of the pressure that might come normally."

The voluntary program is independent of Break Away, but Daly didn't rule out collaboration later. More ideas can't hurt, and players are glad to know they have help coming up with future paths. □

Garth Brooks joins Amazon's streaming service

KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A week after launching its paid streaming music service, Amazon announced a deal with one of streaming music's biggest holdouts: country superstar Garth Brooks.

Brooks, the best-selling solo artist in U.S. history with 138 million albums sold, has kept his music off streaming services. On Wednesday, select albums and songs will be available on Amazon Music Unlimited.

His albums, previously available only through his GhostTunes service, will be sold digitally via Amazon Music.

Brooks said he waited until the right partner came along before he was ready to dive into streaming.

"I love retail to death, but retail will never tell me what my stuff is worth and will never tell me how to sell it," Brooks said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles. "That's the tail wagging the dog for me."

"This is a landmark moment for both Amazon Music and Garth Brooks," said Steve Boom, vice president of Amazon Music, in a statement. "Garth Brooks is a legendary country music superstar who continues

to shatter industry records and amaze fans three decades into his career. We are honored to make his music available for streaming for the first time ever, exclusively on Amazon Music."

Brooks entered semi-retirement in 2000 near the height of his popularity to spend more time with his children and wife, Trisha Yearwood. In 2014, he returned with a major tour and a new album, "Man Against Machine."

His upcoming albums, "Gunslinger" and "Christmas Together" with Yearwood, will be added to the streaming service later this year. Two of his best-selling albums, "Ultimate Hits" and "Double Live," will be available for streaming. They include his popular hits "Friends In Low Places," "The Dance" and "The Thunder Rolls."

His current single, "Baby, Let's Lay Down and Dance," will also be available on streaming.

Amazon Music Unlimited is competing against existing services such as Spotify and Apple Music. It costs \$8 per month, or \$80 a year, for members of Amazon's Prime loyalty program, while non-Prime members pay \$10 a month.



In this July 8, 2016, file photo, Garth Brooks sings "Ain't Going Down" during a concert at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

For Brooks, it was its flagship online retail store that made him choose Amazon.

"For selling music, they are perfect because they do physical and digital," Brooks said. "Here comes, out of the blue, a place that says, 'We can stream and sell and if you don't want to sell singles, just be an album artist, we're fine with that. And whatever price you want to put on

them, high or low, we're fine with that, too, because we're retail.'

Brooks talked with both Spotify and Apple, but said Amazon made a better overall offer with downloads, streaming and physical album sales.

Like many artists who have resisted streaming services, Brooks has concerns that songwriters and publishers aren't adequately compensated. He is on his own

independent label, Pearl Records, and he said that allows him to see how the money from streaming music gets back to the songwriters.

"For the first time, I am going to get to roll up my sleeves and look under the hood and see what is happening," Brooks. "But we can't deny our songwriters are dying. I am getting ready to see if this is a good thing or a bad thing." □

Amazon streaming TV devices won't be so Amazon-focused



This Sept. 29, 2014, file photo, shows the Amazon Fire TV, a product for streaming popular video services, apps and games in high-definition, in Decatur, Ga.

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Ama-

zon's own video store will no longer have the starring role on the company's Fire

and TV shows from Netflix, HBO and other competitors equal prominence on the devices' home screen. The approach is similar to one Apple took when it refreshed its Apple TV device last year.

Amazon's Fire TV has offered solid performance at reasonable prices, but its home screen has been cluttered with Amazon products — whether to rent or buy, or offered at no extra charge through Amazon's \$99-a-year Prime program. That's made it tough to find video from competing providers without turning to a voice-search feature that, until recently, excluded Netflix. For the most part, finding video typically required opening a service's app first.

Now, competing services will be offered space on the home screen. Netflix, for instance, could choose to highlight its original series "Stranger Things" alongside personalized recommendations. Netflix could also include a short video trailer that plays on the home screen.

And while Amazon has long had a watch list for viewers to keep track of what they want to watch, choosing a title has directed the viewer back to Amazon's store. Now, Amazon will offer viewers a choice of providers. If a video is available for free through Netflix, for instance, that will be the most prominent option, even if Amazon's own store is selling the same title. □

US stocks snap 2-day win streak, close slightly lower

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

A day of mostly listless trading on Wall Street ended Thursday with U.S. stocks giving back modest gains from the day before.

Telecom sector stocks declined the most, weighed down by a slide in shares of AT&T, Sprint and other phone companies. Only health care stocks eked out a gain. The broad slide snapped a two-day winning streak for the market. Energy futures and precious metals also closed lower.

Investors mostly waded through another round of earnings reports, looking to glean insights into the health of corporate America and the U.S. economy. While some companies turned in disappointing results, most of those that have posted earnings so far are beating financial analysts' expectations, said JJ Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade.

"Overall, it's been a very, very good earnings season," Kinahan said.

The Dow Jones Industrial average slipped 40.27 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,162.35. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 2.95 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,141.34. The Nasdaq composite index slid 4.58 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,241.83. The major stock indexes are all up for the week.

About 15 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported quarterly results so far this earnings period. Of those, more than 80 percent have turned in earnings that beat Wall Street's expectations, Kinahan said.

Financial companies have been among the best performers so far.

On Thursday, investors bid up shares in American Express, which reported better-than-anticipated earnings late Wednesday

shares rose \$9.95 to \$159.06. Several other companies posted results that failed to impress investors.

EBay slumped 10.8 percent after the e-commerce giant reported disappointing fourth-quarter results. The

Yahoo's digital operations, shed \$1.24 to \$49.14.

Shares in other phone companies also fell. AT&T lost 73 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$38.65, while Sprint fell 16 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$6.72. T-Mobile US slid 27



Trader Michael Capolino works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A day of mostly listless trading on Wall Street ended Thursday with U.S. stocks giving back modest gains from the day before.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

and also raised its annual outlook. The stock was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500, climbing \$5.53, or 9 percent, to \$66.78.

"Financials continue to perform and continue to provide support, American Express being the latest example," Kinahan said.

Toy maker Mattel also got a boost a day after it reported strong earnings. The stock rose \$1.84, or 6 percent, to \$32.46.

Snap-on climbed 6.7 percent after the tool and diagnostic equipment maker posted a larger profit than analysts had forecast. Its

stock was the biggest decliner in the S&P 500, sliding \$3.50, or 10.8 percent, to \$29.02.

Union Pacific fell 6.7 percent after it said weak demand for consumer goods had dampened its freight and coal shipments volume. The railroad operator lost \$6.48 to \$90.64.

Verizon fell 2.5 percent after the company posted weak quarterly revenue as it added far fewer wireless and Internet service subscribers than a year ago. Shares in the company, which is in the process of a potential acquisition of

cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$47.05.

Beyond earnings, traders also weighed some new economic data Thursday. The Labor Department said weekly applications for unemployment benefits rose last week to the highest level in five weeks, though it remained close to a recent 43-year low. Separately, the National Association of Realtors said that sales of previously owned homes rose 3.2 percent from August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.47 million, the strongest pace since June. Trader Michael

Apple:

Many 'genuine' Apple products on Amazon are fake

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple says it has been buying Apple chargers and cables labeled as genuine on Amazon.com and has found nearly 90 percent of them to be counterfeit. The revelation comes in a federal lawsuit filed by Apple against a New Jersey

company on Monday over what Apple says are counterfeit products that were sold on Amazon.

In the lawsuit, Apple says Mobile Star imprinted Apple logos on cables and chargers that "pose a significant risk of overheating, fire, and electrical shock."

It says the chargers and cables were being sold on Amazon as genuine Apple products.

Apple says it purchased the products on Amazon and later told the online retailer that they were fake. Amazon then identified Mobile Star as the source.

Amazon isn't named in the suit, but said in a statement that it has "zero tolerance" for counterfeiters on its site and that it pursues "wrongdoers" aggressively.

Mobile Star didn't return a voicemail seeking comment. □

Wal-Mart, JD.com offer more choices for this Singles Day

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart and JD.com are offering more choices for Chinese shoppers ahead of Singles Day, one of the world's biggest online shopping days of the year.

That includes two-hour delivery services at some Wal-Mart stores and a Wal-Mart global store on JD Worldwide, JD.com's cross-border platform.

Wal-Mart bought an initial stake in JD.com, China's no. 2 e-commerce site, this year in a deal that gave JD.com ownership of its Chinese e-commerce site Yihaodian. Earlier this month, Wal-Mart increased its stake in JD.com to 10.8 percent from 5.9 percent.

The world's largest retailer is trying to improve its business in China, the globe's most populous country that is lucrative but challenging. In China, Wal-Mart faces a business that has been slow and uneven.

Its online business makes up a fraction of the overall online Chinese market compared to Alibaba, which is No. 1 online, and JD.com. But the recent moves underscore how Wal-Mart is accelerating its efforts to cater to online Chinese shoppers who are dramatically increasing their purchases on their smartphones.

Singles Day was launched by Chinese college students in the 1990s as a version of Valentine's Day for people without romantic partners. The Nov. 11 timing was based on the four singles of 11.11. Unattached young people would treat each other to dinner or bestow gifts to woo someone and end their single status. It became a shopping bonanza as sellers of everything from necklaces to TVs moved to cash in on the marketing opportunity, and it is now China's answer to Cyber Monday in the United States — the day after Thanksgiving weekend, when retailers have their busiest online sales day. □

American Airlines 3Q profit falls on lower revenue

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — More empty seats and higher labor costs are cutting into profit at American Airlines. But in an encouraging sign for airlines and their investors — and a worrisome one for passengers

— American is offering new evidence that higher fares could be just around the corner. The world's biggest carrier reported Thursday that third-quarter earnings fell 56 percent and would have dropped even more if it weren't for continuing low fuel prices. The com-

pany earned \$737 million, down from \$1.69 billion a year earlier. Revenue slipped 1 percent but costs rose 5 percent. American was still able to claim that it beat Wall Street expectations. Excluding what it deemed non-repeating costs, mostly related to its

2013 merger with US Airways, the company said it would have earned \$1.76 per share. That topped the \$1.67 per share forecast from analysts surveyed by FactSet. American doesn't disclose the average fare that passengers pay, but it apparently declined less

than 1 percent. Another key figure, revenue for every seat flown one mile, fell 3.3 percent, partly due to lower fares but mostly because the average flight was less full — about three to seven more empty seats on average — than during summer 2015. □

Walgreens posts strong 4Q earns, but delays Rite Aid deal

TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

Walgreens Boots Alliance earnings topped \$1 billion during the fourth quarter, easily surpassing analyst expectations, but the drugstore giant also announced a delay in closing its latest megadeal.

The company said Thursday that it expects to wrap up its \$9.4-billion purchase of rival Rite Aid Corp. early next year, rather than by the end of 2016. Walgreens leaders then cautioned analysts against reading too much into the delay.

"As far as we can see today, we are absolutely confident that we can do the deal and create the value," Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Stefano Pessina said during a conference call.

Shares of the nation's largest drugstore chain jumped after markets opened.

Walgreens revealed plans to buy the nation's third-largest drugstore chain nearly a year ago, a deal that could create a chain with about 12,000 U.S. locations, or several thousand more than its closest competitor, CVS Health



This photo shows a Walgreens store in North Andover, Mass. Walgreens Boots reported financial results Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Corp. The combination also would give Walgreens beefed-up negotiating muscle with drugmakers and other suppliers and enlarge its presence in the Northeast and in Southern California.

The proposal is still being reviewed by federal regu-

lators who have taken a more aggressive stance on major buyouts and, in some cases, shot them down. The Department of Justice, for instance, has sued to block multi-billion dollar acquisitions proposed by two of the country's largest insurers, Anthem Inc. and Aetna

Inc. Walgreens said just last month that it still expected to close the deal this year, but that it might have to sell or divest more than 500 stores. The company had previously said it expected to divest that amount or fewer.

Pessina said Thursday that his company was engaged in a "good collaboration" with the Federal Trade Commission as it reviewed the deal.

"We see just a long administrative process, but we don't see substantial differences from what we were expecting," he said.

Walgreens executives also noted that they factored results from Rite Aid into their Walgreens forecast for 2017, a sign of confidence in the pending acquisition's completion. The company expects to finalize deals to divest its stores by the end of the calendar year.

In the most recent quarter, Walgreens earned \$1.03 billion, up from only \$26 million last year, when the company took a sizeable hit from a change in the valuation of warrants for AmerisourceBergen stock that it exercised earlier this year.

Adjusted results in the most recent quarter came to \$1.07 per share.

Analysts expected 99 cents per share, according to Zacks Investment Research. □

Union Pacific 3Q profit falls 13 percent as shipments slow

JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Union Pacific's profit fell 13 percent in the third quarter because the railroad's efforts to cut costs and improve productivity couldn't offset a 6 percent decline in total freight.

Its stock fell more than 6 percent on Thursday after the railroad reported earning \$1.13 billion, or \$1.36 per

share, in the quarter. That's down from \$1.3 billion, or \$1.50 per share.

The 13 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research expected earnings of \$1.39 per share, on average.

Its revenue declined 7 percent to \$5.17 billion in the quarter from \$5.56 billion. The six analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$5.14 billion. The railroad has about 2,700 employees on

furlough and 1,500 locomotives in storage. But Edward Jones analyst Logan Purk said it's disappointing that Union Pacific didn't do more to cut costs given the declining demand.

Revenue from agricultural shipments grew 6 percent. All the other major freight categories declined, and coal led the way with a 19 percent drop.

"The macroeconomic en-

vironment still has its challenges — an unstable global economy, the relatively strong U.S. dollar and continued soft demand for consumer goods," Union Pacific CEO Lance Fritz said. "However, certain segments of the economy, such as grain and energy, are showing signs of life."

After several years of declining coal demand, Union Pacific officials think coal

shipments may begin stabilizing and could grow a bit next year. Utilities nationwide have been switching to natural gas for several years because of its cheap prices and because of environmental regulations.

The Omaha, Nebraska-based railroad predicts its fourth-quarter volume will decline by a low-single-digit rate before rebounding to grow in 2017. □

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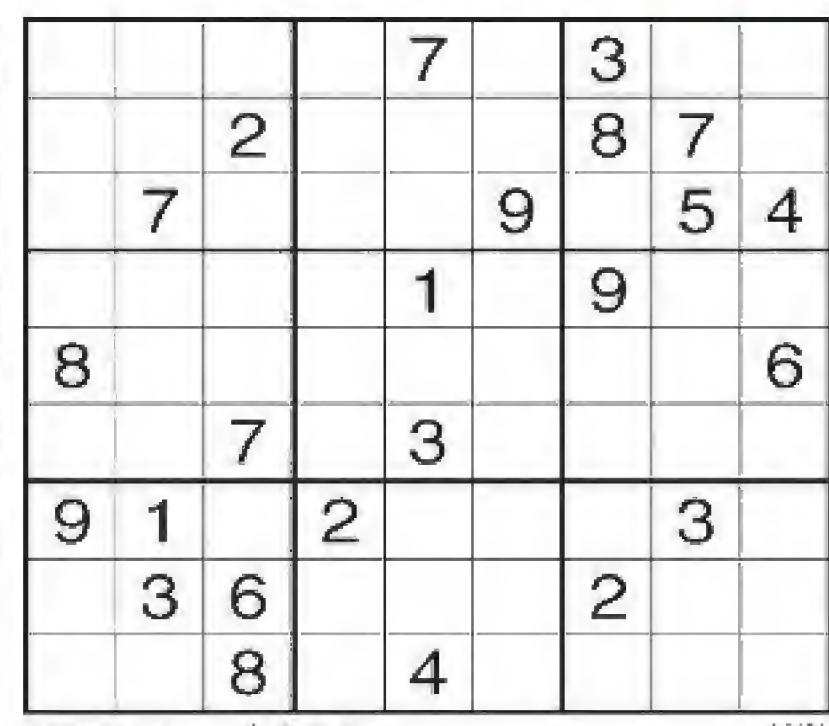
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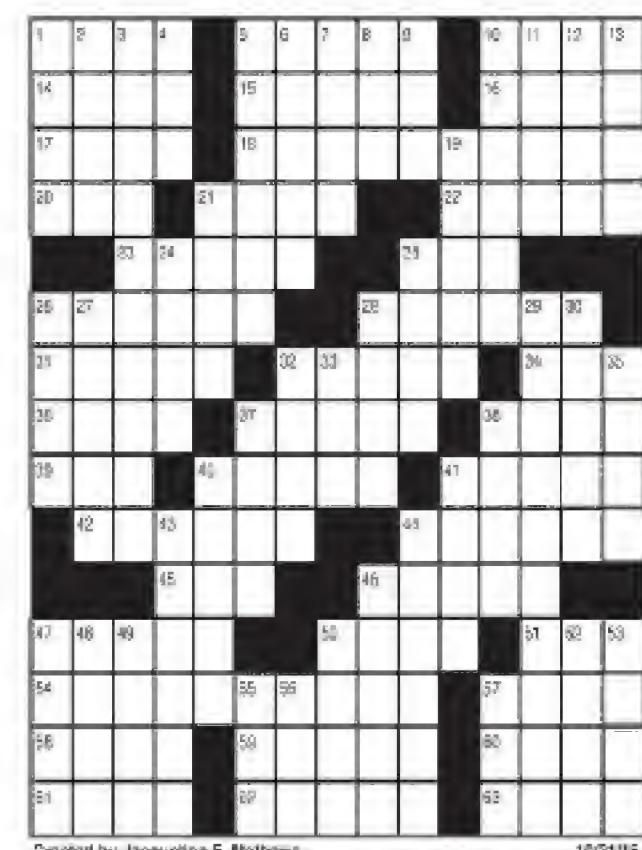
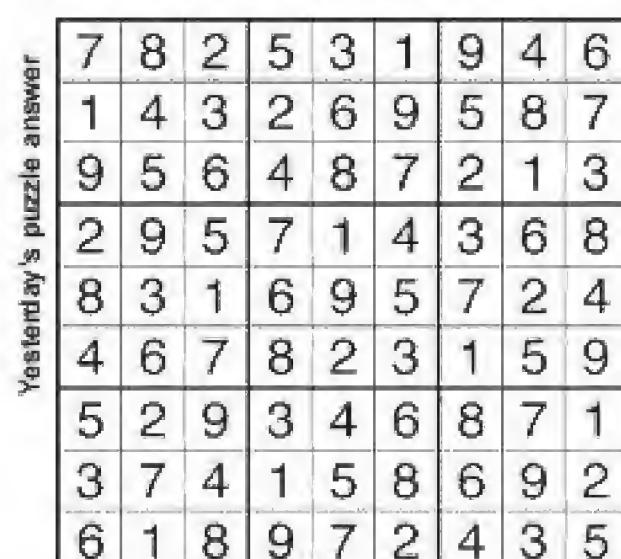
Conceptis Sudoku



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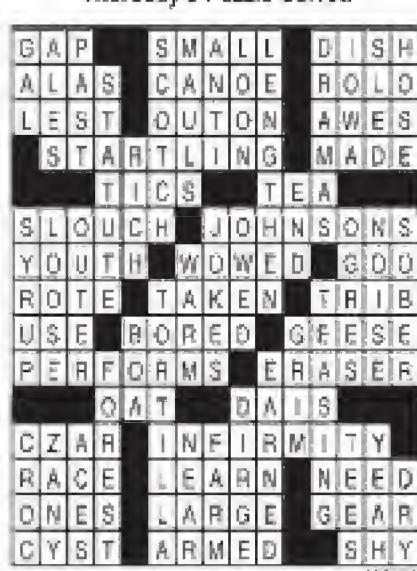
2016 Consumer Trends: Does Your Home Feature a Walk-In Closet?

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



Created by Jacqueline E. Norheem

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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Thursday's Puzzle Solved		
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LEST	OUTON	AWES
STARTLING		MADE
TICS	TEA	
SLOUCH	JOHNSONS	
YOUTH	WOWED	GOD
ROUTE	TAKEN	TRIB
USE	BORED	GEESIE
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RACE	LEARN	NEED
ONES	LARGE	GEAR
CYST	ARMED	SHY
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100116		
37 "Wonderful!"	2 Prolonged pain	48 Lunchtime
38 Hired vehicle	3 Abbreviating	49 __ on; trampled
39 Brooch	4 In what way?	50 Actor Christian
40 Piece of	5 World __;	52 Leg joint
playground	baseball event	53 Elegant poems
equipment	6 Change for the	55 Opening
41 Recluse	better	56 Sick
42 Holiday drink	7 Panhandles	57 Floral wire
44 Cool dessert	8 Gool	delivery service
45 __ up; shred	9 Bread variety	
46 Native New	10 Acquire	
Zealander	11 Big smile	
47 __ of the world;	12 Skater's oval	
feeling stated	13 Breakfast order	
50 Lie in the sun	19 Mountain path	
51 Fight result, for	21 Declare untrue	
short	24 Is victorious	
54 Oslo folks	25 Bulldog's cheek	
57 Is __ of; likes	26 Make a tiny cut	
58 As __ as a	27 TV's Council	
cucumber	28 Ashen-faced	40 Shoot from
59 TV's "Kelle &	29 Short-lived	hiding
"	30 Woodwinds, for	41 __ at; behind
60 Maple or alder	short	43 Noises from an
61 Finishes	32 Tiny branch	unfriendly dog
62 Entreaties	33 __ as a lobster	44 Tumors
63 Coloring agents	35 Metal thread	46 Excessive
DOWN	37 Feed the pigs	enthusiasm
1 Net fabric	38 Sightseeing trip	47 In the past

Crying inside? Creepy craze no joke for real clowns

MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Send in the frowns.

This year's nationwide creepy clown craze has become a nightmare before Halloween for actual, working clowns, who say their bookings at parties and other events have dropped sharply, even after many of the social media-fueled scary clown sightings have turned out to be hoaxes.

Some fear going out with their greasepaint makeup and red noses will make them a target of police or even marauding mobs who take to the streets on so-called clown hunts.

"It's definitely a scary feeling leaving your house, and you fear you are going to get jumped because you're dressed as a clown," says Cyrus Zavieh, a New York City hospital administrator who also performs professionally as Cido the Clown.

"You're there to make them happy, to make them have fun, and now they are saying, 'Aaaaggh!'" Zavieh says. "All of a sudden these stories are putting fear into kids. ... Before, they'd just look the other way, but now it's like, 'You're a scary clown and I hate you.'"

The World Clown Association — comprised of more than 2,000 members in 30 countries — has been flooded with calls from scared performers. It's been sending out safety tips, suggesting clowns consider changing into their costumes when they arrive at a party or go with a handler.

Association president Randy Christensen says clowns are also increasingly getting requests for "modified performances" in which they entertain without makeup and traditional clown attire.

This week, retail giant Target took the step of pulling scary clown masks from its shelves. And McDonald's says its signature clown character, Ronald McDonald, will be keeping a lower profile.



Cyrus Zavieh, also known as Cido the Clown, poses for a photo, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016. A spate of scares involving people doing menacing things while dressed in clown costumes has been no laughing matter for real clowns. Some clowns who perform at parties and other private events complain that bookings have fallen off amid creepy clown sightings, some of which have been revealed to be hoaxes.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

The fallout follows a phenomenon in the U.S. involving dozens of stories, many fabricated, about clowns stalking or attacking people.

In multiple states, people have called police to report being menaced by people in clown cos-

tumes. In Kentucky, a man dressed as a clown was arrested after lurking in the woods. Children in Ohio and Texas have been charged with making clown-related threats to school classmates. A New York City teen told police a clown threatened him with a knife in the subway. "They aren't clowns. They are clown impersonators," said Wendy Pincus, who has performed in New York City for the last 20 years. "We're here to make people happy. We don't threaten people. We bring joy." Pincus, whose clown alter ego is "Crazy Daisy," says she's seen a 30 to 40 percent decrease in just the past few weeks.

Clown sightings, hoaxes and pranks — especially around Halloween — aren't new. In fact, they've become a recurring staple of crime blotters since serial killer and working clown John Wayne Gacy was convicted in 1980 of killing 33 people. □



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wk 26	2453	\$2,500
wk 27	103	\$3,500
wk 25	522	\$4,500
wk 22	338	\$3,800
wk 21	511	\$3,500
wk 50	546	\$6,000
wk 1+2	517	\$19,000
wk 46	507	\$3,000
wk 43	514	\$2,500
wk 47,48,49,50	203	\$4,500 each

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Rock-smashing monkeys make flakes like early stone tools

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Call them knockoffs. Rock-smashing monkeys in Brazil make stone flakes that look a lot like tools made by our ancient ancestors.

Scientists watched as Capuchin monkeys in a national park pounded stones against each other, splitting off sharp-edged flakes that resemble cutting tools used by the forerunners of humans.

The monkeys ignored the flakes, focusing on the damaged stones instead. So they clearly weren't deliberately making them as tools. But if ancient monkeys did the same thing, their unintentional handiwork could be mistaken for deliberate tool-making by human ancestors, researchers said.

The scientists are not suggesting that any stone tools attributed so far to human forerunners were instead made by monkeys, said Tomos Proffitt of Oxford University in England.

Those tools, which date back as far as 3.3 million years ago, are more complex than what the Brazilian monkeys make, he said in a telephone interview. But as scientists look for earlier and earlier tools, their findings may begin to resemble the monkey flakes more strongly, said Proffitt, lead author of a



In this 2014 photo made available by the journal Nature, a young bearded capuchin monkey strikes a stone against another in the Serra da Capivara National Park in Brazil.

Associated Press

study released Wednesday by the journal Nature. And the new work shows that such flakes are not exclusively the calling card of our ancient ancestors, called hominins, he said. If somebody finds very old simple flakes, "you can't assume it is hominin. You have to say it might be produced by an extinct monkey or ape," Proffitt said.

Our African ancestors used sharp-edged stone flakes for butchering and skinning animal carcasses, as well as cutting up tough plant material.

To show such flakes were human-made tools, scientists seek evidence like wear marks on the edges or nearby animal bones with marks from butchering.

Proffitt and his co-authors studied capuchin monkeys in the Serra da Capivara National Park. They examined the flakes and damaged rocks and compared them to artifacts from human ancestors. It's not clear why the monkeys smash rocks together, he said. Scientists long thought tool-making was confined

to our branch of the evolutionary family tree, the Homo group. But last year, scientists reported finding 3.3-million-year-old tools much older than any known member of Homo. Maybe they were made by some smaller-brained forerunner hominin, like the creature best known for the skeleton nicknamed "Lucy." □

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Reader-friendly literary criticism book a million seller

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Rachel Stewart was a rising senior at Bellbrook High School in Ohio, her assigned reading for AP Literature included a work of criticism that she dreaded getting through: "How to Read Literature Like a Professor," by Thomas C. Foster.

"When I heard the title, I thought it was going to be pretty boring, but I surprisingly really liked it," says Stewart, now an English major at Ohio State University. "I thought it was presented in an engaging way ... and I would recommend it to others if they want to get some insight on how to analyze literature."

Published in 2003, "How to Read Literature Like a Professor" has been included in hundreds of high school and college courses nationwide and become a word-of-mouth best-seller, with sales topping 1 million copies, according to HarperCollins. Nielsen BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market, reports more than 100,000 copies sold so far this year.

Foster, 64, is a resident of East Lansing, Michigan, who in 2014 retired as a professor of English at the University of Michigan-Flint. Like many academics, much of his work has been for the scholarly market, including books on poet Seamus Heaney and novelist John Fowles. He first thought of "How to Read Literature Like a Professor" while on sabbatical.

"For some reason, I recalled a silly conversation with a student several years before in which he said he and another student were going to collect the 'sayings of Dr. Tom' into a book," he told The Associated Press.

"I denied that I had 'sayings' and after some back and forth, he came up with 'every trip is a quest.' That became the first chapter title. It turned out there were more of those stock phrases than I had thought. I decided to see if there might be a book in there, and the first few chapters more or less wrote themselves. The later ones were harder, but by then the die was cast."

Foster writes in a conversational style, as if address-

ing students who expect to be bored. He uses modern slang and likens classic works to contemporary pop culture, whether mentioning Dante and Merle Haggard in the same sentence or finding common ground between Thomas Pynchon's "The Crying of Lot 49" and some famous movies.

"It does look a bit weird at first glance, experimental and superhip, but once you get the hang of it, you see that it follows the conventions of a quest tale," he writes. "So does Huck Finn. 'The Lord of the Rings.' 'North by Northwest.' 'Star Wars.' And most other stories of someone going somewhere and doing something, especially if the going and the doing wasn't his idea in the first place."

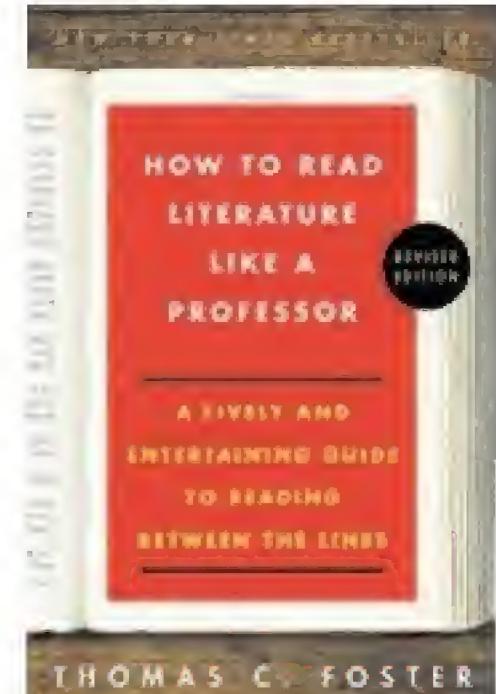
Instructors who have used "How to Read Literature" responded to Foster's informal approach. Angela Brown, who teaches English at Delbarton School in Morristown, New Jersey, found the book a welcome contrast to the dry "door stoppers" that are usually published about literary analy-

sis. She assigns it as summer reading for her 11th grade language and composition class.

"It's a great foundational document for everyone to read," she says. "From day one, we go right into essay writing and I notice that a lot of our early conversations are related directly to the book."

Foster says he has received some criticism over the years, ranging from minor factual corrections to a "little bit of hate mail" from students. He remembered one teen complaining that everything in Foster's book had already been explained in 9th-grade English class. Foster's response: The student had a really great teacher.

Currently promoting his new book, "Reading the Silver Screen," Foster has written a kids' version of "How to Read Literature Like a Professor" and in 2014 released a revised edition of the original book. Some of the changes were inspired by his visits to schools when he found himself emphasizing that students should form their own opinions and not simply accept his.



This book cover image released by Harper Perennial shows "How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines, Revised Edition," by Thomas C. Foster.

Associated Press

"Who can tell you that you didn't feel or think what you know you felt and thought while you were reading?" he says. "Reading is really an act of imagination, just as much as writing is, and the text is where two imaginations come together to create meaning. It took me decades to fully realize and embrace that insight; I'm just trying to speed up the process a little for my readers." □

Tupac Shakur, Pearl Jam lead rock hall of fame ballot

DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The late rapper Tupac Shakur and Seattle-based rockers Pearl Jam are among the first-time nominees on the ballot for induction next year into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Nine of the 19 acts nominated are on the ballot for the first time, with Shakur and Pearl Jam in their first year of eligibility. More than 800 artists, historians and music-industry officials vote, with results announced in December and induction next April. Others back for another chance include pop superstar Janet Jackson; she was nominated for the first time last year.

Nominations were announced Tuesday.

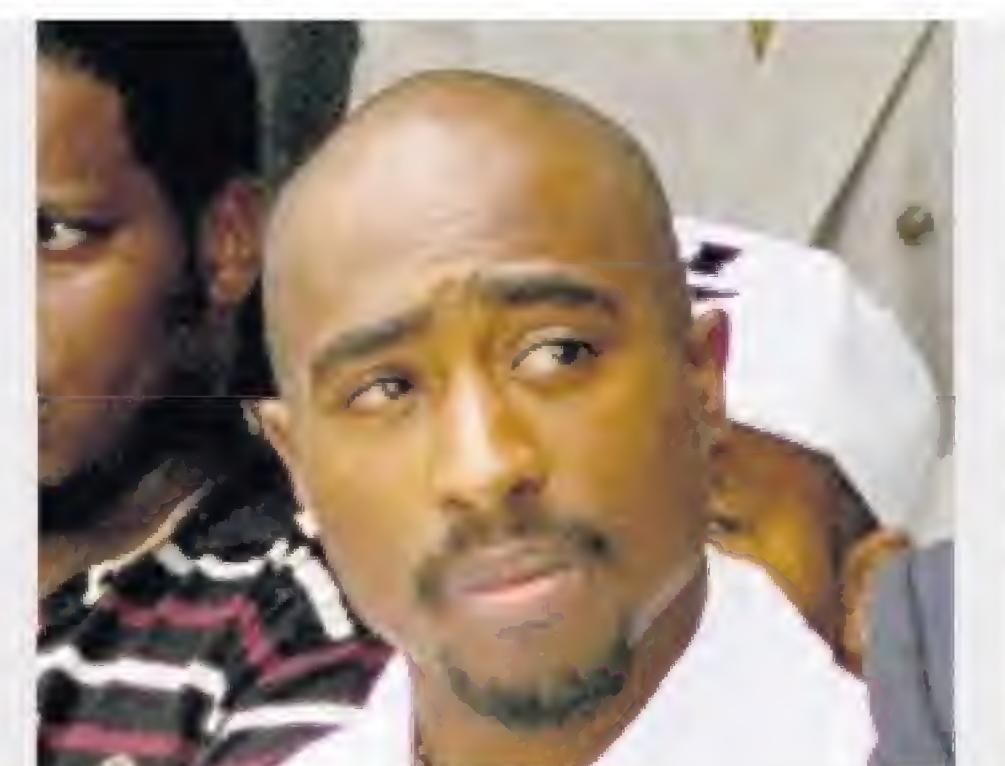
The prolific Shakur was shot and killed at his peak in 1996. His album "Me Against the World" hit the top of the charts when he was in prison for sexual assault. "Keep Ya Head Up," "Life Goes On," "Ambitionz Az a Ridah" and "Changes" are among his best-known songs. He recorded so much while alive that releases kept flowing after his death.

Pearl Jam would be the second band, following Nirvana in 2014, with roots in Seattle's grunge scene to make the hall. Behind charismatic frontman Eddie Vedder, Pearl Jam was a huge initial success behind songs like "Jeremy," "Even Flow," "Alive" and "Better Man." They consciously stepped back from

the commercial world, and persist as a respected and popular touring outfit. And "Don't Stop Believin'" It's true: Journey is another first-time nominee. Its members must wait a couple of months to find out if voters welcome them with "Open Arms."

Other first-time nominees: the hardcore punk pioneers Bad Brains; 1980s synth-pop Depeche Mode; Jeff Lynne's 1970s hit machine Electric Light Orchestra; Lollapalooza instigators Jane's Addiction; 1960s folkie Joan Baez; and Steppenwolf, Canadian rockers of "Born to be Wild" fame.

The influential disco-era band Chic, who have become the hard-luck losers of the rock hall induction



In this Aug. 15, 1996, file photo, rapper Tupac Shakur attends a voter registration event in South Central Los Angeles.

Associated Press

process, are on the ballot for the 11th time.

Others back as nominees include Jackson; soul singer and former Rufus front-woman Chaka Khan; the Peter Wolf-led rockers J. Geils Band; late "I Gotcha" singer Joe Tex; the German electronic music band Kraftwerk; the Detroit-area punk forerunners MC5; Ric Ocasek's new wavers The Cars; the Zombies, British makers of "Time of the Season" and "She's Not There"; and the 1970s-era progressive rockers Yes.

There is no set number of inductees. □

The 3 stars of 'Moonlight' share a role and a breakthrough

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The three Chirons of Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight" are sitting around a table, examining each other's eyes. Trevante Rhodes, 26, Ashton Sanders, 20, and Alex R. Hibbert, 12, play the same character across three distant chapters in his life, growing up black, gay and confused with his drug-addicted mother (Naomi Har-

ris) in Miami. The three actors didn't properly meet until well after the film was finished.

Yet they somehow add up to one of the fullest coming-of-age portraits in years. Tenderly lyrical, exhilaratingly intimate, "Moonlight" and its trio of Chirons capture the tidal swells and recesses of an identity in the midst of discovery, one warped by pain and lifted by fleeting moments



In this Oct. 3, 2016 photo, actor Alex Hibbert, 12, Ashton Sanders, 20, and Trevante Rhodes, 26, cast members in the film, "Moonlight," pose at A24 offices in New York.

Associated Press

of transcendence.

The only link between the three actors, Jenkins says, was their eyes. "I really wanted them to be different people. Same character, different people," says Jenkins. "But there was this spiritual, cosmic connection through the eyes."

Rhodes, Sanders and Hibbert gathered together for one of the first times recently in Manhattan. They are excited — man, are they excited — about collectively sharing a singular character and splitting "Moonlight" (one of the year's most acclaimed films even before it opens Friday) in thirds between themselves.

Tenuous though their connection may be, Rhodes, Sanders and Hibbert could hardly feel more related. Even though they didn't film one scene together, sharing Chiron has made them something like brothers. They see bits of themselves in each other, even if they don't all agree with Jenkins about their eyes.

"I get it," says Sanders, a college student.

"I don't," says Hibbert, while munching on gummy bears.

They laugh. Rhodes tries to explain it. "It's the essence, man," he says. "Chiron is a very truthful person. He's putting up this facade, but can't hide the eyeballs."

Rhodes and Sanders met briefly as Sanders was finishing his shoot and Rhodes was starting his. But they didn't all get together un-

til the film played at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"I heard about them and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, bro, they're dope!'" says Hibbert. Each was plucked from auditions. Sanders, an aspiring actor in Los Angeles who had a small role in "Straight Outta Compton," was the first to be cast. Hibbert, encouraged to go out for it by his drama teacher, came out of local auditions in Miami. Rhodes, a New Orleans native transplanted to Texas, is the most established of the trio, with a number of credits including Terrence Malick's upcoming "Weightless" and the HBO series "Westworld."

As if making up for lost time, they're exceptionally supportive of one another, playfully cheering each other on during a photo session and complimenting each other's answers. Hibbert, who speaks with a confidence and maturity beyond his years, utters a wise pronouncement and Rhodes exclaims, "This guy!" They're a talkative bunch, in contrast with their quietly powerful performances in "Moonlight," each of which bubbles with inner turbulence.

"There's a lot of scenes where I'm watching, just reacting," says Hibbert. "When I saw the movie, I was all like: 'I don't talk.' My mom was all like: 'Don't you get it? You talk with your face!'"

Jenkins didn't allow them to share notes, so each

came to embody Chiron in his own way.

"At the time when I got this part, my mother had just relapsed on drugs," says Sanders. "She's been on and off drugs for my entire life. I do this thing often where I bury things in the back of my mind until I have to be confronted with them. So this film, in the scenes with Naomi Harris, allowed me to deal with that. It was like therapy for me." "This is the movie where I fell in love with acting," says Rhodes. "I felt like I was becoming an artist because I wasn't putting on a coat,

I was inhabiting another skin." "I had to move so my dad wasn't there in my life a lot," says Hibbert. "And Chiron, he didn't have a dad. It's OK now because I'm here in New York and I'm going to see him today."

The three breakout stars of "Moonlight" may have filmed separately but they're together experiencing the film's rapturous response and the spotlight of an international publicity tour. "The response we got from the trailer alone, I feel as if I really underestimated America in regards to how people would receive the project," says Rhodes. "You'd think the black community would really shun something like this because it is perceived as taboo to be effeminate and black because we have to be the physical, most imposing guy in the movie. □

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SAT 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:30 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:30

MON-THURS 5:45 | 8:20
FRI 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55
SAT 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20

TYLER PERRY | CASSI DAVIS
BOO! A MADEA HALLOWEEN

MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25
FRI 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45
SAT 2:25 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25

ZACH GALLIANAKIS | ISLA FISHER
ELIZABETH REASER | LULU WILSON

NEW THIS WEEK!

THE OUIJA ORIGIN OF EVIL

MON-THURS 5:10 | 7:25 | 9:40
FRI 5:10 | 7:25 | 9:40 | 11:55
SAT 2:55 | 5:10 | 7:25 | 9:40 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:55 | 5:10 | 7:25 | 9:40

BEN AFFRECK | ANNA KENDRICK
EMILY BLUNT | HALEY BENNETT

NEW THIS WEEK!

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

MON-THURS 6:50 | 9:20
FRI-SAT 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 6:50 | 9:20

EVAN GREEN | ASA BUTTERFIELD
ANDY SAMBERG | JENNIFER ANISTON

NEW THIS WEEK!

STORKS

MON-FRI 4:40
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40

Not so 'Insecure': Issa Rae blazes trail with HBO series

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For Issa Rae, it feels like the 1990s. The creator and star of the HBO series "Insecure" said she's enjoying the debut of her TV show at a time when popular shows telling different stories about black culture are on the scene, from Ava DuVernay's "Queen Sugar" to Donald Glover's "Atlanta" to Cheo Hodari Coker's "Luke Cage." It reminds her of when shows like "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," "Living Single," "Family Matters" and "Martin" dominated on television.

"It's dope that's there's like a new renaissance. ... I love that I'm not alone," Rae, 31, said in a recent interview. "We worked really hard to include people of color behind the scenes. That was a big thing for us." She gives a lot of credit to Shonda Rhimes, the televi-

sion mogul behind successes like "Scandal," "How to Get Away with Murder" and "Grey's Anatomy."

"She kind of ushered us all in, in a sense," Rae said, "but then a lot of the questions were like, 'Why is this black female character like this?' ... So I'm grateful that we're not going to have (questions like), 'Why is the black girl like this?'

"There are so many different stories that we're able to tell at the same time to show how rich our culture is and that's a great feeling." Before Rae developed "Insecure" — partly based on her life and her hit web series "Awkward Black Girl" — she worked with Rhimes on a pilot about dating in Los Angeles.

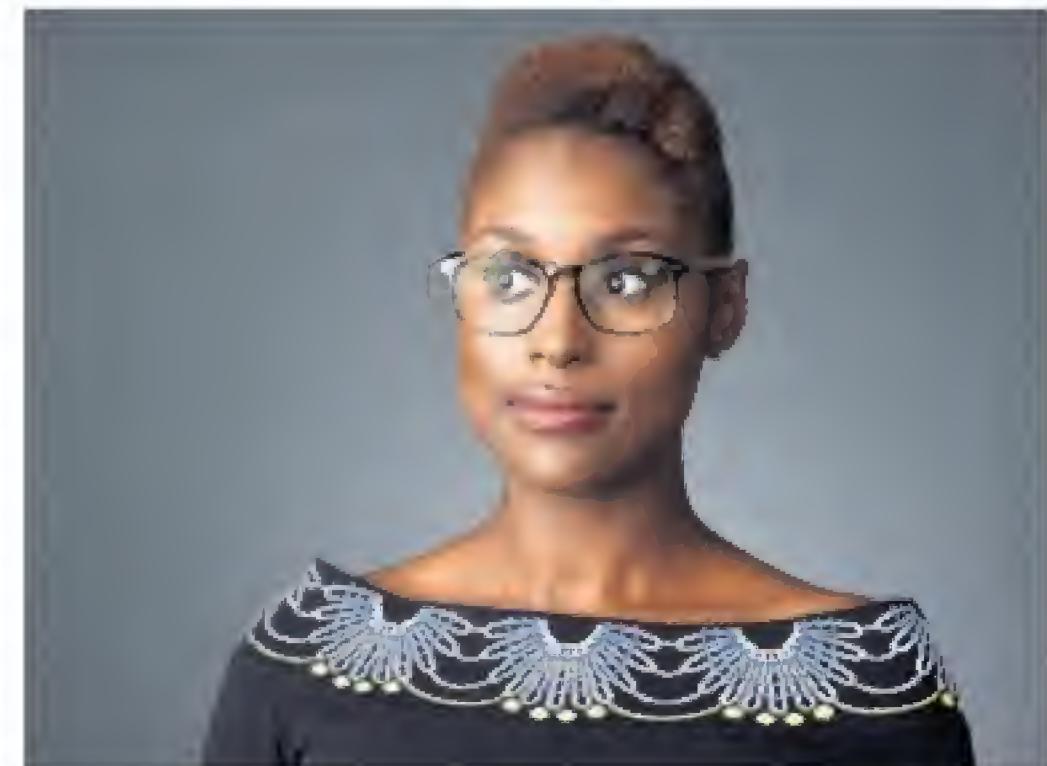
Things didn't work out for the rising star, who said at the time that she "wasn't good at navigating the notes between the network and studio."

"I was too eager to please," she said. "It showed me that I needed to be stronger in my voice."

That's when HBO called. Did Rae have anything to pitch to the network? She did. "Insecure," a hilarious, adventurous show (Sundays, 10:30 p.m. Eastern, on HBO), that follows Issa Dee (Rae) and best friend Molly Carter (Yvonne Orji) as black women on the brink of turning 30 who are navigating their love lives and professional careers.

"They're really good about getting out (of) the way of the cultural element of the show and making sure your voice shines through," she said about the executives at HBO (the network recently offered Rae a production deal to develop more content).

Rae built a strong team to help her find her voice for "Insecure": Larry Wilmore is her co-creator; Prentice



In this July 30, 2016 photo, Issa Rae, star of the HBO series "Insecure," poses for a portrait during the 2016 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif. "Insecure" airs Sundays at 10:30p.m. on HBO.

Associated Press

Penny, who has worked on "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and "Scrubs," is the show runner; and Melina Matsoukas, the Grammy-winning director behind music videos for Beyoncé and Rihanna, directs some of the episodes.

Matsoukas, who marks her TV directing debut, is one of many music ties to the show. Grammy-winning singer-songwriter-producer Raphael Saadiq composed the music, and Solange Knowles is a music consultant. □



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The Gold Mine Ranch

Homegrown fashion industry bursts onto scene in Cuba

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Like so much else in Cuba, shopping for clothes isn't easy. Buying a simple pair of socks or a T-shirt means choosing between the wildly overpriced, shoddy offerings of state-run stores and the bales of low-priced clothing illegally imported by "mules" traveling from the United States, Ecuador or Panama.

This year, a third option is bursting onto the scene after years of growing quietly in backroom workshops and bedroom studios. A small homegrown fashion industry is winning renown and an increasing share of Cubans' limited clothing budget with simple but fun-and-stylish clothing produced on the island with natural fabrics and sold at competitive prices.

Hundreds of private designers are turning out gauzy



In this Oct. 14, 2016 photo, Cuban fashion designer Analu, center, walks down the catwalk with a model during Havana Fashion Week at the Alicia Alonso Grand Theater in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

ba's most elegant theaters, where hundreds turned out for runway shows, private

a fashion renaissance in Cuba but it can't be a priority for the state, so it's

like some new private businesses, the fashion industry is receiving a relatively warm welcome from the communist bureaucracy, perhaps because it doesn't directly compete with the state. After successful runs in the first decades of Cuba's socialist revolution, state-run clothing businesses were hurt by the collapse of the Soviet Union and had largely disappeared by the mid-1990s. Celebrities and fashionistas

with the United States. In May, French label Chanel took over Havana's Prado boulevard for a runway show that garnered global attention, and anger among many Cubans for its privatization of one of the main thoroughfares in the capital of a country that has declared socialist equality as its guiding principle.

Privately designed clothes remain out of reach for Cubans on state salaries of about \$30 a month, but those with private-sector jobs or help from family overseas can afford them. Mario Freixas, a well-known designer who dresses many of the stars of state-run television, sells shirts for \$20 and men's and women's pants for \$30.

Alongside the domestic market, Cuba's own designers are hoping that their lightweight blouses and fringed swimsuits will become popular items for visitors to take home.

"We all have high hopes for the tourism boom," Frias said. "I don't think anyone comes to Cuba to buy imported clothing."

Havana Fashion Week began in 2015 with 30 designers, organizer Catherine Dorticos said. This year's edition had twice as many. "It's a way to motivate people, for people to see other



In this Oct. 14, 2016 photo, models present the collection of Cuban fashion designer Analu during Havana Fashion Week at the Alicia Alonso Grand Theater in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

wedding dresses, brilliantly decorated bathing suits, linen pants and even uniforms for state businesses. Last week, dozens of designers displayed their wares at the five-day Havana Fashion Week at Cu-

nings and cocktail parties. "The changes that have taken place in this country, the openings, make things easier," said Jesus Frias, a designer who put on a swimwear runway show on Friday. "There's

we private designers who are bringing it back." The growth of the artisanal fashion industry comes thanks to free-market reforms put in place by President Raul Castro after he took power in 2008. Un-



In this Oct. 14, 2016, photo, Cuban fashion designer Mario Freixas poses for a photo as he walks among vintage American cars on a street in Havana, Cuba. Freixas, a well-known designer who dresses many of the stars of state-run television, sells shirts for \$20 and men's and women's pants for \$30.

Associated Press

have made Havana a hot destination over the last two years amid a boom in tourism set off by detente

options and for artisans to produce more and feel inspired to do new things," she said. □